



LAC DPH COVID-19 Vaccine Update:
Additional mRNA Dose for
Immunocompromised Persons & LA County
Healthcare Worker Vaccine Mandate



August 14, 2021

*This message is intended for all healthcare providers in Los Angeles County.
Please distribute as appropriate.*

Key Messages

- The CDC recommends an additional mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose for moderately and severely immunocompromised people after an initial 2-dose primary mRNA vaccine series (see below for discussion).
- An additional vaccine dose is not currently recommended by the CDC for immunocompromised persons who received a single dose of the J&J vaccine. The FDA is still evaluating data on the effectiveness of this vaccine for immunocompromised individuals.
- Other fully vaccinated persons are adequately protected and do not need an additional dose nor a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine at this time.
- The CDC will be hosting a live COCA [webinar](#) for healthcare providers on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations on Tuesday 8/17/21 at 11am PST.

Updates

- **LA County Health Care Worker Vaccination Requirement.** The County Health Officer has issued an Order that requires vaccination of all the workers in healthcare facilities covered in the [State Public Health Officer Order](#), and expands the vaccination requirement to include other workers in emergency medical service provider agencies, dental offices, and in home care settings, such as home care organizations and home health agencies. Read the full [Order](#) and the [FAQs](#).
- **COVID-19 risk reduction materials** on keeping safe and preventing spread, including an infographic for parents with children under 12, are available on the [DPH COVID-19: Reducing Risk webpage](#).

Additional Dose of mRNA Vaccine for Moderate and Severely Immunocompromised Persons.

A 2-dose series of Pfizer and Moderna vaccine works very well in the majority of individuals, but there is evidence that some people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised have a reduced immune response and may benefit from a third dose. The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) [recommends](#) that people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least four weeks after completing their initial series. This ACIP recommendation follows the [FDA amendment](#) to emergency use authorizations (EUAs) for both the Pfizer and Moderna

vaccines to allow for the use of an additional vaccine dose for certain immunocompromised individuals.

For public health purposes, the CDC states that immunocompromised persons are still considered fully vaccinated ≥ 2 weeks after completing a primary vaccine series (i.e., 2-dose Pfizer or Moderna vaccine series or a single dose of the Janssen vaccine). However, an additional third dose should be considered for people with moderate to severe immune compromise due to a medical condition or receipt of immunosuppressive medications or treatments. These conditions and treatments include but are not limited to:

- Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies
- Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Receipt of CAR-T-cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., ≥ 20 mg prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, tumor-necrosis (TNF) blockers, and other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory.

Additional information for providers regarding the level of immune suppression associated with a range of medical conditions and treatments can be found:

- ACIP: [General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization-Altered Immunocompetence](#)
- CDC: [Yellow Book-Immunocompromised Travelers](#)
- IDSA: [Clinical Practice Guideline for Vaccination of the Immunocompromised Host](#)

The CDC has updated COVID-19 vaccine [clinical considerations](#) to include a new section on the [considerations for use of an additional mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose for immunocompromised persons](#). Some key points include:

- The currently FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines are not live vaccines and therefore can be safely administered to immunocompromised people.
- The additional dose should be administered at least 28 days after the completion of the initial mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series.
- Ideally individuals should be vaccinated with the same vaccine as they received during their first and second dose but if that is not possible receiving a third dose with another mRNA vaccine is also acceptable.
- This additional dose recommendation is only for persons who are moderately or severely immunocompromised.

The CDC has also published a new page for consumers [COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People](#).

The CDC will be hosting a live COCA [webinar](#) for healthcare providers on the ACIP recommendations on Tuesday 8/17/21 at 11am PST and releasing an [MMWR](#) early next week.

LAC DPH recommends the following action steps for providers:

- Communicate with your immunocompromised patients about the recommendation of an additional mRNA vaccine dose.
- Provide an additional dose, if your facility is a vaccine provider.
- Refer your immunocompromised patients to any vaccine site that offers Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.
 - Patients do not need a doctor's note and may attest that they have a qualifying medical condition. Self-attestation forms are available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
 - To find a convenient location that offers the appropriate vaccine, patients can visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](#) and click on "[How to Get Vaccinated](#)." They can also call the DPH Vaccine Call Center at 833-540-0473, 7 days a week from 8am to 8:30pm to request in-home vaccination, free transportation to a vaccination site, or help with paratransit and other services for people with disabilities.
- Discuss with your immunocompromised patients about the importance of continuing to follow other precautions such as wearing a mask, maintaining physical distance from those that are not a part of their household, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, and encouraging their close contacts to also get vaccinated. Refer them to [ph.lacounty.gov/reduce_risk](#) for more tips.

For COVID vaccination information for the public, visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](#) (English) [VacunateLosAngeles.com](#) (Spanish)

Visit the LAC DPH [COVID-19 Hub](#) and [Vaccination Hub](#)

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This communication was sent by Dr. Claire Jarashow, Director, Vaccine Preventable Disease Control Program, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

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