

NEW MEXICO HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) ALERT

Latest Guidance from CDC on Status of Booster Vaccinations

Currently, FDA has not authorized and CDC does not recommend a booster COVID-19 vaccine, even for immunocompromised people, outside of clinical trials. Therefore, NMDOH cannot provide booster vaccines following completion of the primary COVID-19 vaccine series.

August 3, 2021

Background

A “booster” refers to a vaccine administered after the primary (1 or 2-dose) COVID-19 vaccine series to increase immunity after waning of the initial immune response.

On June 22nd the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (CDC/ACIP) presented a COVID-19 vaccine update in which they weighed evidence to support whether boosters are needed. They summarized that no data supported recommendations for booster doses in the general or immune suppressed populations, but they would continue to monitor for waning immunity and protection against variants.¹

On July 23rd the CDC/ACIP updated COVID-19 vaccine immunity data for various subpopulations, including those with clinically or therapeutically suppressed immunity. They reiterated that under the current Emergency-use Authorization (EUA), the FDA has authorized mRNA vaccines as a 2-dose series and Janssen vaccine as a single dose for those with suppressed immunity but at this time, they are not aware of data submitted to the FDA to support an amendment to the EUA for a booster vaccine in this population. The CDC/ACIP will closely assess additional data and expert opinion regarding COVID-19 vaccine boosters and await regulatory authorization.²

Recommendations for Clinicians

- Until booster vaccines are recommended by the CDC/ACIP and authorized under the FDA⁴, clinicians should refrain from referring patients to the NMDOH for booster appointments, but clinicians are encouraged to refer patients to the NMDOH to assist with primary vaccination.
- If you are a clinical provider and are not fully vaccinated, get vaccinated as soon as possible to protect yourself, your family, and your patients.³
- Clinicians are the most trusted source of information for patient’s health decisions and the CDC recommends that clinicians:³
 - Increase patient outreach efforts to encourage, recommend, and offer COVID-19 vaccination.
 - Remind patients that vaccination is recommended for all persons aged 12 years of age and older, even for those with prior SARS-CoV-2 infection.
 - Follow trusted sources carefully for any new recommendations and changes in vaccine guidance.
 - Support efforts to ensure people receiving a first dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine return for their second dose to complete the series.

- Communicate with unvaccinated staff, patients, and other individuals to increase confidence in vaccination. [CDC has many resources for providers to help increase vaccine confidence.](#)

Clinician advice for Immune Compromised Patients and their families:

- Immunocompromised patients and their close contacts should be vaccinated against COVID-19 under the current EUAs.
- Counsel patients who are immunocompromised about the potential for reduced immune responses to COVID-19 vaccines and to continue to practice all recommended prevention measures: Wear a well fitted mask, stay 6 feet apart from others, avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.
- Early treatment with monoclonal antibodies may be beneficial in this population if they develop COVID-19 infection.
- The CDC/ACIP will closely monitor vaccine immunity data for this population and will update booster vaccine guidance upon authorization from FDA.

References:

¹[Overview of data to inform recommendations for booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines \(cdc.gov\)](#)

²[ACIP Data and Clinical Considerations for Additional Doses in Immunocompromised People \(cdc.gov\)](#)

³[HAN Archive - 00447 | Health Alert Network \(HAN\) \(cdc.gov\)](#)

⁴[Joint CDC and FDA Statement on Vaccine Boosters | FDA](#)

Additional Resources:

[For Providers | NMDOH \(takecarenm.org\)](#)

[NMDOH | Get the Facts about the COVID-19 Vaccine. \(vaccinenm.org\)](#)

<https://cv.nmhealth.org/covid-19-mono-clonal-antibody-treatments/>

[Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment \(CISA\) Project | CISA | Monitoring | Ensuring Safety | Vaccine Safety | CDC](#)

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