

NEW MEXICO HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) ALERT
CDC Recommends Additional Updated COVID-19 Dose for Older Adults
February 29, 2024

Background:

On February 28, 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) endorsed the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendation for adults aged 65 years and older to receive an additional dose of the updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine. This is the same formulation which became available in Fall 2023. The additional dose should be given at least 4 months after receipt of their last COVID-19 dose. This recommendation was made based on data continuing to show an increased risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 in older adults, the expected benefit of boosting immunity in this population, and the favorable safety profile seen with this vaccine.

Nationally, more than half of COVID-19 hospitalizations from October 2023 to December 2023 occurred in adults aged 65 years or older. Current data from New Mexico reflects this trend among older adults as well, with those aged 75 years or older at especially increased risk. For more information, visit the interactive Viral Respiratory Infection Dashboard here:

<https://nmdoh-reports.shinyapps.io/ViralRespiratoryInfectionDashboard/>.

Previous Recommendations Still in Place for Other Age Groups:

- People who are aged 6 months or older and are moderately or severely immunocompromised may still receive additional updated COVID-19 vaccine doses 2 or more months after their last recommended COVID-19 vaccine.
- People who are aged 5 years or older remain eligible for a single dose of the updated Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine that became available in Fall 2023, if they have not already received one.
- Children who are aged 6 months to 4 years should complete a multi-dose initial series (2 doses of Moderna or 3 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA COVID-19 vaccine) with at least one dose of the 2023–2024 COVID-19 vaccine. Children who have already completed an initial series, but have not yet received one dose of the updated (2023-2024) vaccine, should do so at least 2 months after the most recent COVID-19 vaccine dose.
- Anyone who has recently had COVID-19 disease may consider delaying their vaccine by 3 months after the infection.
- COVID-19 vaccines may be given without regard to the timing of other vaccines such as flu or RSV, including on the same day.

Access to the Updated (2023-2024) COVID-19 Vaccines:

- Most Americans can still get a COVID-19 vaccine for free. Most health insurance plans (including Medicaid and Medicare Part B) will cover COVID-19 vaccine at no cost.
- Uninsured individuals can receive the COVID-19 vaccine free of charge through a network of health centers, public health offices, and participating pharmacies in the CDC's [Bridge Access Program](#), ensuring universal vaccine access.
- Vaccine appointments can be found both on the NMDOH COVID vaccine finder website: vaccinesnm.org and on the CDC Vaccine Finder website: [Vaccines.gov - Find COVID19 vaccine locations near you](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/downloads/COVID-19-vaccine-finder.html).

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND RESPONSE

- Nurses are also available at **1-833-SWNURSE** (1-833-796-8773) to assist in scheduling a vaccine, finding a provider, or for assisting clinicians with questions about the vaccine. The line is staffed from Monday-Friday 7am-8pm MST, and weekends from 10am-4pm MST, with both English- and Spanish-speaking staff available.

Additional Resources:

1. Clinical recommendations from CDC will be updated here: [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)
2. COVID-19 Vaccine fact sheets for vaccines under EUA and product inserts for vaccines that have been FDA approved (Moderna Spikevax and Pfizer Comirnaty) are available and are accessible here: [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | FDA](#)
3. Vaccine Information Sheets (VIS) for the FDA approved vaccines (Moderna Spikevax and Pfizer Comirnaty) are available here: [Vaccine Information Statement | Current VISs | CDC](#)
4. In addition to the **1-833-SWNURSE** help line, clinicians with questions about COVID-19 vaccine administration can also contact the NMDOH Immunization Team at covid.vaccines@doh.nm.gov or find more information at: [Immunization Education & Tools for Healthcare Providers \(nmhealth.org\)](#)

New Mexico Health Alert Network: *To register for the NM Health Alert Network, please visit the following site <https://nm.readyop.com/fs/4cjZ/10b2> Please fill out the registration form completely and click Submit at the bottom of the page, to begin receiving Important health alerts, advisories, and updates.*

Please Note that our system also utilizes text messaging to notify members of important health information. Due to FCC Regulation changes that are designed to decrease the amount of unwanted spam text messages sent each year to citizens, please save, this phone number **(855) 596-1810** as the **“New Mexico Health Alert Network”** default phone number for your account used for text messages on the mobile device(s) you register with us.