



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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DEC 17 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
UNDER SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: Guidance on Eligibility for a Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccine Booster Dose

On November 29, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published updated guidance on coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine boosters recommending all adults 18 years and older receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose 6 months following completion of an initial Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty or Moderna vaccine series, or 2 months following a primary dose of Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.¹

Consistent with CDC guidance, it is recommended that individuals 18 years of age or older should obtain a COVID-19 booster dose if they:

- Have completed the primary Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine series (i.e., received the second dose of the vaccine) more than 6 months ago, or;
- Have received a primary dose of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine more than 2 months ago.

Individuals ages 16 or 17 can obtain a Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty COVID-19 booster dose if they have completed the primary Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine series (i.e., received the second dose of the vaccine) more than 6 months ago.

Receipt of a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose is not mandatory for any DoD personnel and a booster dose is not required for an individual to be considered fully vaccinated. Personnel are still considered to be fully vaccinated 2 weeks after receiving the second dose in a two-dose vaccine series (e.g., Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty, Moderna vaccines), or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine (e.g., Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine). Personnel are also considered fully vaccinated if they have completed a primary COVID-19 vaccination series with a World Health Organization Emergency Use Listing (WHO-EUL) vaccine, or if an individual has completed a primary COVID-19 vaccination series while enrolled in and part of a clinical vaccine trial.

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html?s_cid=11709:cdc%20covid%20booster:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN.Grants:FY22

COVID-19 vaccine booster doses administered by DoD are available for Service members, DoD civilian employees, eligible DoD beneficiaries, and select contractor personnel.

- Individuals fully vaccinated with a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) authorized or a Biologics License Application (BLA) approved COVID-19 vaccine who elect to receive a booster dose may choose which FDA EUA authorized COVID-19 vaccine they receive. Consistent with CDC recommendations, “mix and match” dosing (i.e., taking different COVID-19 vaccines) is allowed for booster shots, taking into consideration an individual’s preference and vaccine availability. An individual may receive a booster of the same vaccine type that they originally received, or receive a booster of a different type.
- Individuals who are fully vaccinated after completing a primary COVID-19 vaccination series with a WHO-EUL COVID-19 vaccine or individuals who have completed a primary COVID-19 vaccination series while enrolled in, and part of, a clinical COVID-19 vaccine trial may receive a COVID-19 booster dose; however, the booster dose must be a Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty COVID-19 booster dose.

Service members who receive a COVID-19 vaccination booster dose from a non-military vaccination site must provide immunization data for transcription into their immunization record in accordance with Defense Health Agency Interim Procedures Memorandum 20-004, “DoD Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program Implementation,” May 6, 2021.

Evolving information on COVID-19 vaccine booster doses will continue to be closely evaluated by public health and clinical experts. Recommendations may change based on safety or effectiveness concerns, or on published guidelines from the CDC, FDA, and/or COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers.

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cc:
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