



ASHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

For Immediate Release

Date: September 27, 2021

COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTER DOSES

Ashland, Ohio – The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have authorized a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine for fully vaccinated people at highest risk for serious outcomes to maximize ongoing protection against COVID-19.

Currently, recipients of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are not eligible for booster doses, pending ongoing evaluation. Immunocompromised individuals who meet certain, specific criteria and received an mRNA vaccine (either Pfizer or Moderna) are already eligible for a third dose at least 28 days after the second dose to strengthen the initial immune response.

Who Is Eligible For Pfizer/Comirnaty Booster Doses:

Those currently eligible for a Pfizer/Comirnaty booster dose, are at least six months following completion of their primary Pfizer series, include:

- Individuals 65 years and older or residents in long-term care settings **SHOULD** receive a booster shot.
- Individuals 50 to 64 years of age with certain underlying medical conditions **SHOULD** receive a booster shot.
- Individuals 18 to 49 years of age with certain underlying medical conditions **MAY** receive a booster shot based on their individual benefits and risks. The CDC has indicated that this is a determination made by the vaccine recipient.
- Individuals 18 years and older who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of their job or living in an institutional setting **MAY** receive a booster shot based on their individual benefits and risks. The CDC has indicated that this is a determination made by the vaccine recipient.

There is ample supply of vaccine for boosters, as well as first and second doses. Eligible individuals can find a provider and schedule an appointment at <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/>

Unfortunately, over the last few weeks, Ashland County has seen an increase of COVID-19 cases within our community, along with twelve outbreaks. To reverse this upward trend, the Ashland County Health Department asks everyone do their part to reduce the spread of the virus. The best ways to do that include: getting vaccinated, wearing a facial covering, and practice social distancing.

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