



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Department of Human Services

Safety, Oversight and Quality

PO Box 14530, Salem, OR 97309

3406 Cherry Ave NE, Salem, OR 97303

Phone: (503) 373-2227

Fax (503) 378-896

NF-21-0062 – Provider Alert

Date: October 13, 2021

To: All Nursing Facilities
All Assisted Living Facilities
All Residential Care Facilities

From: Aging and People with Disabilities
ODHS Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit (SOQ)

Subject: **COVID-19 vaccine booster shot implementation guidance
and vaccine data reporting update**



Overview

This alert provides:

- Guidance on Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 booster and third shots;
- Updated requirements for facility vaccine maintenance plans;
- Booster shot and vaccine data reporting update; and
- How to request technical assistance with booster shot access.

Guidance on Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 booster shots

Based on scientific evidence, booster doses of the Pfizer vaccine are now available for some groups of people at least six months after completion of their initial Pfizer vaccine series, as shown below:

- 65 years and older.
- 18+ who have [underlying medical conditions](#). (Oregon considers all intellectual and developmental disabilities underlying medical conditions.)
- 18+ who live or work in [high-risk settings](#).

Booster shots are given when the protection from a vaccination begins to decrease and help people continue their immunity for a longer period.

[COVID-19 vaccines are working well](#) to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death, even against the widely circulating [Delta variant](#).

Booster doses have not yet been recommended for people who received the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine. That recommendation may change after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the evidence.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) guidance on additional mRNA COVID-19 vaccine doses is as follows:

- An additional mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose for the Pfizer BioNTech or Moderna vaccines is recommended for moderately to severely immunocompromised people at least 28 days after the initial two-dose mRNA primary vaccine series. (An additional dose refers to an additional dose of vaccine administered when the immune response following an initial completed vaccine series is likely to be insufficient.)
- For more information, please refer to the [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) for additional information.

Finally, please monitor the [OHA website on booster shots and third doses](#) to stay up to date on changes in authorizations for additional doses of COVID-19 vaccines.

Updated requirements for facility vaccine maintenance plans

Nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and residential care facilities are required to have a vaccine maintenance plan to comply with the health care setting COVID vaccine mandate documented in [NF-21-0056 – Provider Alert](#).

Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 booster shots must be included in all long-term care facility vaccine maintenance plans. COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots ensure the protection of residents and staff.

For updated information on resources for implementing a COVID-19 vaccination maintenance plan, refer to the [Long-Term Care Facility COVID-19 Vaccine Maintenance Planning Website Resource Guide – October 7, 2021](#).

Booster shot and vaccine data reporting update

Nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and residential care facilities are required to report vaccination status to OHA per rule [OAR-411-061-0010](#).

OHA has updated the vaccination tracking tools to accommodate tracking of additional dose or boosters among long-term care facility staff and residents. Links to the tools are below. It recommended that facilities review the Instructions sheet prior to data entry.

OHA recommends that facilities begin using these new tools now; instructions on how to transfer data from prior spreadsheet versions is included in the tool. It is anticipated that questions about additional dose or boosters will be added to the weekly [OHA Reporting Survey](#) for the week of Oct. 18, 2021 to Oct. 24, 2021, which will open for reporting on Oct. 25, 2021.

Links for the tools:

COVID-19 Vaccine Tracking Sheet for Residents (Excel)

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/covid19/Documents/COVID-19-Vaccine-Tracking-Sheet-Residents.xlsx>

COVID-19 Vaccine Tracking Sheet for Staff (Excel)

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/covid19/Documents/COVID-19-Vaccine-Tracking-Sheet-Staff.xlsx>

To assist facilities with these upcoming reporting changes, OHA will be offering a webinar on Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021, from 1 to 2 p.m. PST.

To register for the webinar visit: [COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting: Additional Dose and Booster Tracking Updates](#).

Additional resources, including updated FAQs and supplemental guidance are available on the [OHA Providers Page](#).

How to request technical assistance with booster shot access

OHA, along with the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) are

working together to ensure that facilities have the resources they need to track this information and that data collection processes align with those being used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 booster shots are widely available and should be readily accessible through your existing pharmacy relationships. However, should your facility need assistance with access to booster shots please fill out the help request form at this link:

<https://deloittesurvey.deloitte.com/Community/se/3FC11B265631D8B2>.

Help requests submitted through this link will be collected by OHA, which will work in coordination with ODHS and local public health authorities to provide any needed information or assistance.

Questions

If you have any questions or concerns, please send an email to:
SOQ.LTCinfo@dhsoha.state.or.us.

For questions about this guidance, reach the Safety, Quality and Oversight Unit licensing team: for nursing facilities, send an email to NF.licensing@dhsoha.state.or.us; for residential care and assisted living facilities send an email to CBC.team@dhsoha.state.or.us.

To visit the ODHS website: www.oregon.gov/DHS/