



Oregon

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**NF-21-069 – Provider Alert**



Date: December 17, 2021

To: All Nursing Facility Providers  
All Assisted Living Providers  
All Residential Care Facility Providers

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

Subject: **URGENT: COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots for residents and staff should be prioritized, support available from ODHS and OHA**

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All long-term care settings including nursing, assisted living and residential care facilities should be **actively and urgently implementing** COVID-19 vaccination opportunities for residents and staff including booster shots and third doses. All COVID-19 vaccines are free.

The Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus is expected to spread rapidly. This new risk comes as residents and staff will be gathering with family and friends or traveling during the holiday season, increasing the risk for exposure just as the more contagious Omicron variant is spreading.

Information in this provider alert includes:

- How to get assistance with providing COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots for residents and staff;
- Reminder on vaccine maintenance plan requirements;
- Updated information on COVID-19 vaccine and booster shot guidance; and
- Other resources available to assist with COVID-19 vaccination.

## **Assistance with COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots**

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), along with Oregon Health Authority (OHA), are supporting care providers who serve older adults and people with disabilities to ensure that they are accessing available COVID-19 vaccine including booster shots and third doses.

OHA maintains an online [technical assistance form](#) through which providers or individuals may request assistance getting access to COVID-19 vaccine, including initial or booster doses.

## **Vaccine maintenance plan requirements**

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](#). It is also the expectation of ODHS that facilities are **acting with urgency** to provide residents and staff with access to COVID-19 vaccines including booster shots and third doses. The protection provided by the initial vaccine series diminishes after 6 months and booster shots are essential to protect the health of individuals who could face serious health consequences from the virus.

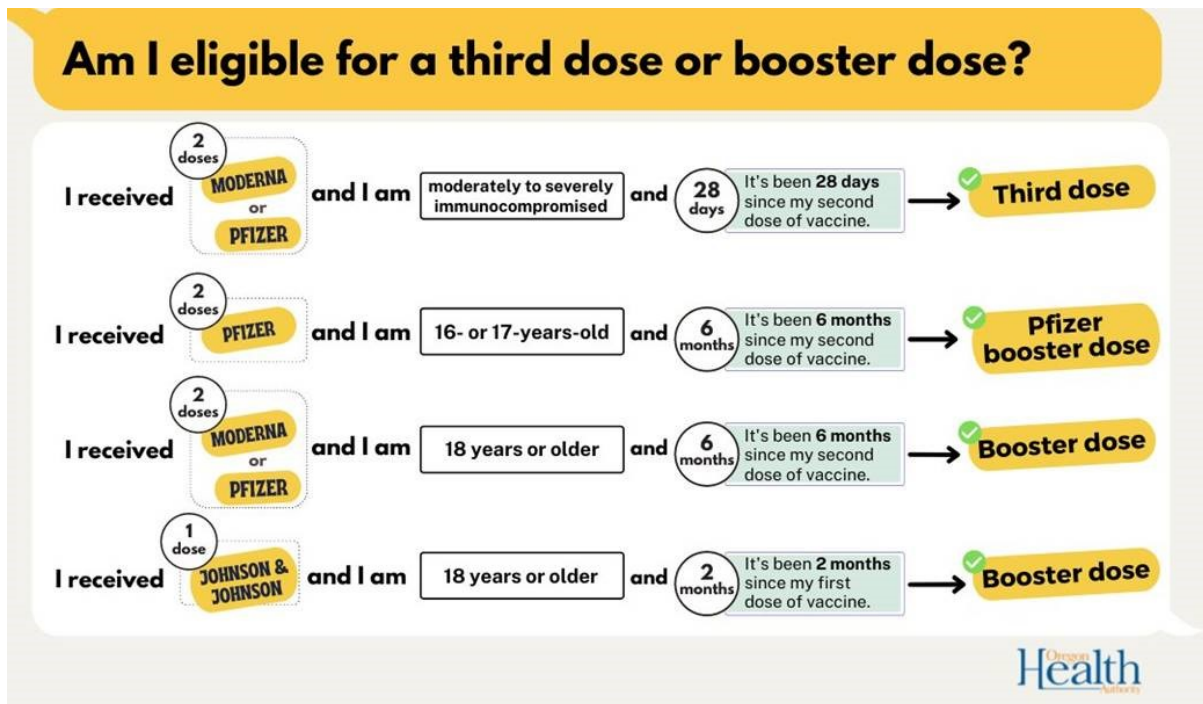
For more information and assistance on vaccine maintenance plans see the most recent copy of the ODHS/OHA guide:

- [Long-Term Care Facility COVID-19 Vaccine Maintenance Planning Website Resource Guide – October 7, 2021](#)

## **Updated booster shot guidance from OHA**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and OHA recommend that all adults 18 years and older who completed their primary vaccine series should get a COVID-19 booster shot and those 16 – 17 years old who completed their Pfizer primary series can get a COVID-19 booster shot of Pfizer.

Long-term care residents and staff **should** get a COVID-19 booster shot at least six months after completing their primary Pfizer or Moderna vaccine series or two months after completing their primary Johnson & Johnson vaccine. **Those due for a booster shot should get it as soon as possible.**



The CDC's recommendations allow mix and match dosing for booster shots for individuals age 18 years and older.

Additional information about vaccines is available at the below links:

- [OHA web page on COVID-19 vaccine booster shots and third doses](#)
- [COVID-19 Booster Dose FAQs](#)

For information in Spanish:

- [Vacunas de refuerzo y terceras dosis](#)

For information and updates on COVID-19 guidance for long-term care settings:

- [Guidance for Facilities Responding to COVID-19](#)

Providers with questions should contact their licensing team:

Nursing Facility Providers: [NF.licensing@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:NF.licensing@dhsoha.state.or.us)

Community Based Care Providers: [CBC.team@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:CBC.team@dhsoha.state.or.us)

Oregon Department of Human Services website: [www.oregon.gov/DHS/](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/)