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Frederick County Health Department

FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND JOINT INFORMATION CENTER COVID-19



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Immunocompromised Individuals Eligible to Receive Third Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine

Frederick, MD – The CDC and FDA have authorized a third dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised.

This includes people with the following medical conditions or receiving treatments such as:

- Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies
- Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Receipt of CAR-T-cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge, Wiskott-Aldrich syndromes)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., ≥ 20 mg prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, TNF blockers, and other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory

The third dose must be of the same type of vaccine as the first two doses and must be more than 28 days after second dose. Pfizer is available for people 12 years and older, and Moderna for people 18 years and older. Individuals will need to self-attest that they have one of the conditions listed above. A prescription or doctor's note is not required.

Immunocompromised individuals may still have a reduced immune response and need to take steps to reduce their risk of exposure, such as:

- Wearing a mask
- Staying 6 feet apart from others they don't live with
- Avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces until advised by their healthcare provider.

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Currently there are insufficient data to support the use of an additional mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose after a single dose Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine in immunocompromised people. FDA and CDC are actively working to provide guidance on this issue.

Local opportunities to receive the vaccine are available on our website <http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/CovidVaccine>. Updated CDC guidance on use of COVID-19 vaccines can be found [here](#).

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