



SENECA COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

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Anne Goon, MS, RD, LD, Health Commissioner

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Health District Clarifies Eligibility for COVID-19 Vaccine Third Doses and Boosters

Tiffin, OH, October 6, 2021 – Seneca County General Health District, as well as other COVID-19 vaccine providers in Seneca County, continues to provide third doses and boosters of the coronavirus vaccine to eligible residents. It's easy to get confused about the differences between third doses and boosters, so the Health District is providing these clarifications.

Third Doses

Third doses of Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are limited to people who have compromised immune systems, since they do not achieve the same level of immunity that most other people accomplish with the two-dose series. For these individuals, the third shot is intended to be part of the initial vaccine series.

Persons are recommended for a third dose if they have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood.
- Received an organ transplant and take medicine to suppress your immune system.
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or take medicine to suppress your immune system.
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome or Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome).
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection.
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response.

"We really encourage individuals with these conditions to talk with their healthcare provider to determine if they should get a third dose," states Goon. The third dose must be the same kind of COVID-19 vaccine they previously received. At least 4 weeks (28 days) must have passed since their second dose. This recommendation applies only to Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

Individuals who qualify for a third dose do not have to return to the same vaccine provider where they received their initial doses. Third doses are currently available on a walk-in basis on Wednesdays, 9:00 am-3:30 pm, at the Seneca County General Health District office at 71 South Washington Street, Suite 1102, Tiffin.

Persons needing a first or second dose of COVID-19 vaccine can also walk-in during these same hours each Wednesday.

Booster Doses

A COVID-19 booster, on the other hand, is intended to "boost" a weakening level of immunity, which occurs after the passage of time. A single booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine has been authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for specific populations at highest risk for COVID-19 based on their age or certain underlying medical conditions, and for those who have a high risk of exposure from their place of work or residence. The booster dose will help maximize ongoing protection against COVID-19.

Those eligible to receive a booster are:

- People 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings.
- People ages 50 to 64 with certain underlying medical conditions.
- People ages 18 to 49 who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 due to certain underlying medical conditions.
- People ages 18-64 at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of their occupational or institutional setting (e.g., working in a hospital, working or living in a nursing home, residing in a group home, jail, or inpatient treatment facility).

More detailed information about who is eligible to receive a booster can be found on the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>.

A booster dose can be given at least six months after completion of the Pfizer two-dose series. Individuals do not have to return to the same vaccine provider where they received their initial doses. The FDA has not yet approved booster doses of Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

Booster doses are currently being provided by appointment only each Wednesday at the Seneca County General Health District office at 71 South Washington Street, Suite 1102, Tiffin. To schedule an appointment, please call 419-447-3691, ext. 6352.

Individuals with questions about COVID-19 vaccine third doses or boosters can also call the Health District at 419-447-3691, ext. 6352.

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