

MEMORANDUM

To: UMRC & PH Residents and Families
From: Missi Latter, VP of Quality and Compliance
Date: 8/26/21
Re: Vaccination Updates

The FDA recently amended the emergency use authorizations for both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to allow for the use of an additional (3rd) dose in certain immunocompromised individuals. Research suggests a 3rd dose increases the number of antibodies immunocompromised people create. This past week the CDC finalized the clinical recommendations as a way of identifying who would qualify to receive a **3rd Dose** now.

Additionally, the Biden Administration recently announced a plan to offer Covid **Booster** shots to all Americans starting September 20, 2021. With the Delta variant, researchers are seeing reduced protection and a booster would allow vaccinated individuals to maintain protection over the coming months. Below is clarifying information between the two types.

3rd Dose

- Available now only for those meeting the immunocompromised criteria.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html>
- 3rd doses are administered at least 28 days from the final (2nd) dose of Pfizer or Moderna. You should receive the same brand as your original vaccination.
- **Nursing and Assisted Living Residents:** We have reviewed the criteria with our Medical Directors and if a 3rd dose is indicated your physician will order it and we will assist with obtaining and administering.
- **Independent Living Residents:** Please speak with your physician if you have questions regarding whether you need this additional dose. This dose can be administered by your physician, if available, or many local pharmacies are offering the 3rd dose at retail locations.

Booster Dose

- We anticipate availability after September 20, 2021, for Pfizer and Moderna (J&J anticipated later in the Fall.)
- We are waiting for the plan from the experts, but in the meantime, we are preparing our preliminary plan which is to roll-out these booster doses in the same fashion as first vaccines, with healthcare workers, care communities and older adults being priority. Our teams have begun planning and preparing for potential booster clinics onsite and will keep you informed as we learn more.
- Our understanding is the booster dose is to be administered 8 months after completion of original vaccine.

Team Member Vaccinations

Last week it was announced the Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will be mandating vaccines for anyone working in skilled nursing/long-term care. Outside of this initial announcement there has been no additional information related to the specifics of this new requirement. We are working to prepare for this while awaiting the actual guidance to understand the specifics of which team members this will impact and when it will go into effect. Please know the topic of mandating vaccines for all UMRC PH team members is something we continually discuss and evaluate.

We continue to follow solid infection prevention practices, including testing unvaccinated team members weekly, requiring all team members to wear masks, and screening for Covid signs and symptoms daily, prior to working.

As always, we offer our sincere gratitude to our residents and team members whose responsible actions have helped us take care of each other throughout this pandemic. We will continue to navigate these unprecedented times together keeping the health and safety of our teams and those we serve as a top priority.

Thank you again for your support. We will provide additional updates as we learn more and get closer to Covid Booster doses becoming available. Please feel free to reach out with any questions to covidinfo@umrc.com or call 734-412-4009.