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In reply, please refer to:
File:

August 19, 2021

**MEDICAL ADVISORY: ADDITIONAL mRNA COVID-19 VACCINE DOSE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **CDC recommends people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised should receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine after the initial 2 doses.**
- **The additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be given at least 28 days after a second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.**
- **Additional doses or booster shots are not recommended for the general population at this time.**

Dear Healthcare Providers:

On August 13, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) made an interim recommendation for use of an additional dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (for persons aged ≥12 years) or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine (for persons aged ≥18 years) after an initial 2-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series for moderately to severely immunocompromised people. The additional dose is **only** recommended for individuals who are **moderately or severely immunocompromised;** CDC does not currently recommend additional doses or booster shots for any other people.

For public health purposes, immunocompromised people who have completed a primary mRNA vaccine series (i.e., 2-doses of Pfizer or Moderna) are considered fully vaccinated ≥2 weeks after completion of the series. However, an additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine after an initial 2-dose primary series should be considered for people with moderate to severe immune compromise due to a medical condition or receipt of immunosuppressive medications or treatments. These conditions and treatments include:

- 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 syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., ≥20mg prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, tumor-

necrosis (TNF) blockers, and other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory.

The additional mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose should be the same vaccine product as the initial 2-dose mRNA COVID-19 primary vaccine series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), when possible. It is permissible for the additional dose to be a different mRNA vaccine. The additional dose should be administered at least 28 days after completion of the initial 2-dose mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series.

Currently, there are insufficient data to support the use of an additional mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose or an additional dose of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine after a single-dose Janssen COVID-19 vaccine in immunocompromised people.

People who are immunocompromised should be counseled about the potential for a reduced immune response to COVID-19 vaccines and the need to continue to follow current prevention measures, including wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart from others they don't live with, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces. Close contacts of immunocompromised people should be strongly encouraged to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to protect these people.

Immunocompromised individuals may discuss with their healthcare provider whether receiving an additional dose is appropriate for them. Patients undergoing active chemotherapy or other therapies that may result in variable levels of immune suppression over time should discuss optimal timing of an additional COVID-19 vaccine dose with their provider. Individuals can self-attest and receive the additional dose wherever vaccines are offered. This will help to ensure there are not additional barriers to access for this vulnerable population.

In the general population, emerging data suggest immunity induced by mRNA vaccines against symptomatic infection with COVID-19 might wane over time, but that effectiveness in preventing severe disease and death remains robust. On August 18, HHS announced a plan to begin offering COVID-19 booster shots this fall. This plan is pending FDA review and emergency use authorization, and further clinical recommendations from the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. **Additional doses or booster shots are not recommended for the general population at this time.**

These interim considerations will be updated as new data become available.

For further information, visit: Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States.

Sincerely,

Sarah K. Kemble, M.D.
State Epidemiologist

# Hawaii Department of Health
# Provider Advisory Network (PAN)

The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) has set up a new Provider Advisory Network (PAN) that will serve to quickly distribute information to Hawaii's medical community. Through the network, users will be able to receive alerts about new medical advisories, view past medical advisories, and access other resources. **This system will be replacing the current distribution system for medical advisories, so if you wish to continue receiving medical advisories, you will have to register with PAN.**

PAN is available to all healthcare providers in Hawaii who provide direct patient care. You can access PAN by using the following URL:

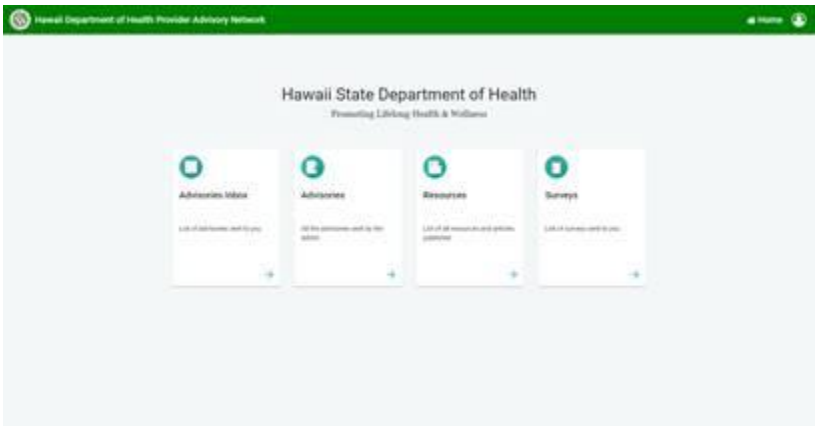
https://PAN.health.hawaii.gov

In order to access PAN features, you must register for an account and submit a profile for account approval.

**Registering for PAN:**

1. Go to https://PAN.health.hawaii.gov
2. Click on "Create an account" then fill in your information and click "Sign up" to receive a verification email.
3. After verifying your email address, log into PAN and fill out your profile, then click submit. After submitting, your account will have to be approved before you have access to PAN. You will receive an email once your account has been approved.
4. After your account has been approved, return to the site and log in again. You will now have access to the content within PAN.

**PAN features:**
After your account has been approved, when you log in to PAN you will arrive a home page from which you can access PAN's features.




*PAN's home page*

**Advisories Inbox:** You will receive email alerts when medical advisories that match your profile are sent out (matching is based on county and specialization). This section contains only those advisories that match your profile (note: all advisories, including ones not matching your profile, are accessible in the "Advisories" section).

**Advisories:** Contains all released medical advisories.

**Catalogs:** Collections of resources for health care providers (informational pages, links, documents, etc.)

**Surveys:** Surveys sent out to users will be accessible through this section.

If you have any questions about PAN, please email doh.PAN.admin@doh.hawaii.gov.