Community Questions and Answers:

Collaborative Meeting

October 6th, 2021

Below are questions we have received during the Collaborative space held on October 6th, 2021. We have complied those questions and answers in this document.

If you have any questions and/or would like to follow-up, please feel free to contact us at Vax.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov

Q: Is there an estimate on when Moderna or Johnson and Johnson boosters will be approved?

A: Providers can now offer booster doses of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccines to those who are eligible:

At least six months after completing the primary Pfizer or Moderna vaccine series, the following groups of people are eligible for a booster dose:

- Those 65 and older,
- Those 18 – 64 who live in long-term care settings,
- Those 18 – 64 who have underlying medical conditions or those at increased risk of social inequities, and
- Those 18 – 64 who work or live in high-risk settings.

Q: When can people start getting boosters?

A:

- If you got the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine: You should wait six months or more after your second dose to get your booster
- If you got the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine: You should wait six months or more after your second dose to get your booster
- If you got the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine: You should get a booster dose two months after your first dose

Q: Do you need to receive the same vaccine for your booster as your original series?

A: You can get a different vaccine for your booster dose than the vaccine you got for your primary series. The CDC made their decision following a careful review of the latest data (Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, mix and match boosters), and robust and deliberative discussion around booster shots. For more information, please see here (English; Spanish; 38 additional languages available).

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Q: What is the data on boosters already administered in WA?

A: As of October 22nd, more than 345,000 additional doses (which is a combination of booster and third doses) have been given out across the state.

Q: How many vaccines doses were allocated to tribal communities and the Indian Health Services communities?

A: We follow a formal government-to-government process between Department of Health and Federally Recognized Indian Tribal governments. During the initial vaccine rollout, tribal nations and Indian health programs chose to receive direct allocation from the department or Indian Health Services. Currently, two-thirds of tribal governments partner with DOH and receive 5% of weekly vaccine supply.

Q: Is there a definition for underlying medical conditions?

A: People of any age with the conditions listed below are more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19. Please see additional details here:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic liver disease
- Chronic lung diseases
- Dementia or other neurological conditions
- Diabetes (type 1 or 2)
- Down syndrome
- Heart conditions;
- HIV infection
- Immunocompromised state
- Mental health conditions
- Overweight and obesity
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease or thalassemia
- Smoking (current or former)
- Solid organ or blood stem cell transplant
- Stroke or cerebrovascular disease
- Substance use disorders
- Tuberculosis

Other medical conditions determined by a medical provider

CDC completed an evidence review process for each medical condition on this list to ensure they met criteria for inclusion on this list. CDC conducts ongoing reviews of additional underlying conditions and some of these conditions might have enough evidence to be added to the list. As we are learning more about COVID-19 every day, this list does not include all medical conditions that place a person at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Rare medical conditions, including many conditions that primarily affect children, may not be included below. The list will be updated as the science evolves. A person with a condition that is not listed may still be at greater risk of severe illness from COVID-19 than people of similar age who do not have the condition and should talk with their healthcare provider.

Q: Can you get a COVID-19 booster shot the same time as the flu vaccine?

A: Yes! You can get a COVID-19 vaccine and any other vaccines, including a flu vaccine, at the same visit. Experience with other vaccines has shown that the way our bodies develop protection, known as an immune response, after getting vaccinated and possible side effects of vaccines are generally the same when given alone or with other vaccines. Learn more about the timing of other vaccines.

Q: Is there more information on why boosters are needed?

A: Booster doses will help provide continued protection against severe disease for populations at high risk for severe COVID-19. This is especially important with the rise of the delta variant and cases of COVID-19 increasing across the United States.

The COVID-19 vaccines authorized or approved in the United States are still very effective at reducing the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19, even against the delta variant. Still, the current vaccines may be associated with a drop in protection over time. Booster vaccines will increase vaccine-induced protection against COVID-19 and help immunity last longer.

Q: What is the difference between a booster shot and an additional shot?

A: An additional dose is for people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems. This additional dose of an mRNA-COVID-19 vaccine is intended to improve immunocompromised people's response to their initial vaccine series.
A booster dose is for people who have completed their vaccine series and protection against the virus has decreased over time.

Q: Can you clarify the difference between people who should vs. who may receive their booster vaccine?

A:

Who should get the booster dose?	Who may consider booster dose? **People in these groups may consider*

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	booster dose depending on their personal risk and situation
• People 18 years and older who received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine for their primary series should get a booster shot at least two months after their last dose. • People who received the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for their primary series and are in the following groups should get a booster shot at least 6 months after completing the primary series (first 2 doses): o People 65 years and older o Adults 18 years and older living in long-term care settings o People aged 50 to 64 with underlying medical conditions or who are at increased risk of social inequities	• People 18 to 49 who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 due to certain underlying medical conditions or who are at increased risk of social inequities • People aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting

Q: Would people getting sick with COVID-19 after getting the vaccine be in the category of high risk for them to get the booster?

A: Great question! CDC recommends certain people (outlined above) receive booster shots at this time. Additional populations may be recommended to receive a booster shot as more data become available. The COVID-19 vaccines approved and authorized in the United States continue to be effective at reducing risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death. Experts are looking at all available data to understand how well the vaccines are working for different populations. This includes looking at how new variants, like Delta, affect vaccine effectiveness.

Q: Why are we seeing so many breakthrough cases of COVID-19?

A: COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough cases are uncommon because all COVID-19 vaccines currently being used in the United States are highly effective. However, since none of the vaccines are 100% effective, we expect to see some vaccine breakthrough. Millions of people in the United States are getting vaccinated, and a

small proportion of those vaccinated people will still become infected with COVID-19. Breakthrough cases do not mean that something is wrong with the vaccine. For more information, please see here English.

Q: For people that received a third shot because they are immunocompromised, do they need to get a booster at any point?

A: As for now, no. The CDC is still looking into fourth dose recommendations.

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