

April 12, 2022

Communiqué

COVID-19 Booster Update

Research clearly supports that the COVID-19 first booster, 3rd dose of vaccine, is critically important to protect against severe illness. If you have not accepted your first booster, please consider getting that dose of vaccine now. We recommend that you accept three doses of vaccine now. Vaccine clinics are available here on campus or in the Lancaster County area.

On April 6, 2022, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) immunization advisory panel held a meeting to discuss the COVID-19 vaccine booster schedule. The committee focused their discussion on “strain composition of COVID-19 vaccines and considerations for optimal use of additional COVID-19 vaccine booster doses.” The advisory panel plans to meet again during early summer.

Is there a new recommendation for a booster?

No, there are no new recommendations from this meeting. As noted previously, the 4th dose, or second booster, is authorized and available for those 50 years and older, as well as those 12 years and older with an immune-compromising condition.

What is the difference between authorization and recommendation?

“Authorized” makes the vaccine available to those meeting the criteria. “Recommended” means the authorities feel the dose is necessary.

How do I decide if I should get the vaccine?

If you meet the criteria for the second booster but feel uncertain, contact your healthcare provider team. Your individual risk factors will be discussed with you, and specific guidance can be offered.

If the vaccine is available, then why not get it?

Currently, 4 doses of COVID-19 vaccine are available to those that meet the outlined criteria. As we enter the summer, there will likely be less transmission of the virus compared to recent winter months. Of course, the potential risk from emerging variants is uncertain. At this time, if you take the second booster, it is unclear if an additional dose will be made available in the fall.

Why is timing of the second booster important?

There is an increased level of immunity after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose. Accepting a booster dose of vaccine will be beneficial prior to the seasonal increase of respiratory illnesses in the fall. As with many vaccines, immunity will decrease over time. Thus, accepting the vaccine too early will not maximize the benefits that might be gained during the fall and winter months.

(over please)

Can I get a booster now and one in the fall?

At this time, there is approval for only 4 doses. If you receive the dose now, you will have received the maximum amount of vaccine currently available. Authorization of additional doses in the future remains unknown.

Why is my neighbor getting the vaccine?

Individual risk factors will dictate the decision to get the vaccine. Perhaps, your neighbor has several health conditions that put them at greater risk for severe illness. Perhaps, your neighbor is planning travel or plans to attend large group events that will increase their risk of exposure to the virus. Talking with your healthcare provider is a good way to make your personal decision regarding vaccination.

Where can I get the vaccine?

Currently, vaccine is available in Lancaster County at many retail pharmacy locations. WVC will continue to hold smaller clinics here on campus in the coming months. We anticipate that additional COVID-19 vaccination clinics will be held on campus in early fall along with those for the influenza vaccine.

When is the next COVID-19 booster clinic?

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022

Location: Cultural Center Ballroom

Appointments are required; call 717.471.5651 to schedule

For regular, updated information, watch COVID-19 BRIEFINGS with Pamela Kinsey

The recorded broadcast will air the second Thursday of each month at 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM, and 10:30 PM.

- Upcoming date: April 14, 2022
- WVTM CampusTV 4 | Comcast 956 **OR** via the button on the top of the Resident Intranet.
- Beginning May 12, 2022, the program content will shift to focus on health and wellness topics. The team will provide interesting information, and will continue to briefly cover COVID-19 information, as needed. *The Weekly Insider* will have additional details.

FDA-Authorized/Licensed COVID-19 Vaccines



- **Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine**
 - 2-dose primary series (3rd primary series dose in individuals with certain kinds of immunocompromise) in ages 5 years and older; COMIRNATY licensed as 2-dose primary series in ages 16 years and older
 - First booster dose (homologous or heterologous) in ages 12 years and older
 - Second booster dose (homologous or heterologous) in ages 50 years and older and in ages 12 years and older with certain kinds of immunocompromise
- **Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine**
 - 2-dose primary series (3rd primary series dose in individuals with certain kinds of immunocompromise) in ages 18 years and older; SPIKEVAX licensed as 2-dose primary series in ages 18 years and older
 - First booster dose (homologous or heterologous) in ages 18 years and older
 - Second booster dose (homologous or heterologous) in ages 50 years and older and in ages 18 years and older with certain kinds of immunocompromise
- **Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine**
 - Single dose primary vaccination in ages 18 years and older
 - First booster dose (homologous or heterologous) in ages 18 years and older