

## From the Alabama Department of Public Health

There have been some concerns from citizens who are immunocompromised not being able to access the recommended number of doses of COVID-19 vaccine, to include primary series and booster, at community pharmacies. The information below outlines the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) guidance for COVID-19 vaccination in some moderately to severely immunocompromised patients.

Immunocompromised patients are especially vulnerable to COVID-19. The CDC recommends<sup>1</sup> that some moderately or severely immunocompromised people should get **an additional, or third shot** in their mRNA primary series. After the recommended timeframe of the mRNA primary series, **a booster, or fourth shot** is recommended for those eligible. The CDC defines moderately to severely immunocompromised as those who have:

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

For the complete CDC guidance, visit the CDC's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html>.

Eligible For	IF YOU RECEIVED Pfizer-BioNTech	IF YOU RECEIVED Moderna	IF YOU RECEIVED Johnson & Johnson's Janssen
<b>Additional Primary Shot</b>	<p>People <b>age 5+</b> who are moderately or severely immunocompromised <b>should</b> get an additional primary shot of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine</p> <p>Given 28 days after 2<sup>nd</sup> shot</p>	<p>People age 18+ who are moderately or severely immunocompromised <b>should</b> get an additional primary shot of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine</p> <p>Given 28 days after 2<sup>nd</sup> shot</p>	<p>No additional primary shot is recommended at this time</p>
<b>Booster Shot</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teens <b>ages 12-17</b> should only get a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster shot</li> <li>• People <b>age 18+</b> should get a <a href="#">booster shot</a> of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) in most situations</li> </ul> <p>Given 5 months after additional primary shot</p>	<p>People <b>age 18+</b> should get a <a href="#">booster shot</a> of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) in most situations</p> <p>Given 5 months after additional primary shot</p>	<p>People <b>age 18+</b> should get a <a href="#">booster shot</a> of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) in most situations</p> <p>Given 2 months after 1<sup>st</sup> shot</p>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html>

### **From the Alabama Department of Public Health**

There have been some concerns from uninsured citizens regarding access to COVID-19 vaccines. The U.S. Government is providing **free** access to COVID-19 vaccines for every eligible person living in the United States. This includes anyone without health insurance, no matter their immigration status. A Social Security Number and/or government ID may be requested but is **NOT** required. Access to COVID-19 vaccines should not be hindered due to the inability to pay for the administration fee of the vaccine, nor from the inability to provide a Social Security Number or government ID.<sup>1</sup>

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) COVID-19 Uninsured Program is a voluntary federal program that reimburses providers for vaccine administration fees associated with uninsured individuals, regardless of their immigration status.

For additional information on the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program, visit the HRSA website at <https://www.hrsa.gov/coviduninsuredclaim>. For a quick fact sheet for providers on the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program, visit <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/coronavirus/provider-covid-vaccine-factsheet.pdf>.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/coronavirus/uninsured-patient-covid-services-poster.pdf>