



# State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health

**DATE:** September 20, 2021

**TO:** COVID-19 Vaccine Primary Coordinators and LTCFs

**FROM:** Louisiana Immunization Program

**SUBJECT:** **Clarification of Individuals Eligible for a Booster (Third Dose) in Louisiana**

Please route to:

- COVID-19 Vaccine Primary Coordinators
- LTCF vaccine clinic coordinators

### Who is eligible today

At this time, only moderate to severe immunocompromised individuals who complete the state's self-attestation form are eligible for an additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine after an initial two-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series. Applicable immunocompromised conditions and treatments are referenced in the attached patient self-attestation form.

### Update on possible third dose of vaccine being recommended for other individuals/groups

- On September 17, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Vaccines and Related Biologic Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) voted in favor of emergency use authorization of Pfizer vaccine for booster doses for age 65 and up and for those at high risk.
- FDA is not bound to follow this vote from the advisory committee, although they typically do. The FDA will still need to approve and issue an authorization based on the VRBPAC's vote.
- If the Pfizer booster is authorized by the FDA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will then need to review and develop official vaccine booster recommendations for states and providers to follow.
- The CDC's ACIP is planned to meet on September 23-24 to discuss the possible booster recommendations, if FDA authorizes them.
- The CDC will officially announce any recommendations/guidelines after they meet.
- Then the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) will issue recommendations to providers on possible additional booster doses to additional groups of individuals in Louisiana.
- At this point, we presume that the guidance will be for the Pfizer vaccine only, and not the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson (J & J) vaccines.
- Booster guidance for Moderna and J & J are also expected to come at some point, but it could take several weeks.
- Do not administer any booster (third) doses to individuals until full CDC and LDH recommendations are issued (the exception being those eligible immunocompromised individuals that have completed self-attestation).

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- We are optimistic that the new Pfizer booster recommendations will be issued by the start of next week (week of September 27).
- It is through these various steps with different advisory committees and governing bodies that our healthcare system can ensure that vaccines remain safe and effective for those needing them first/most.

If you have any questions regarding COVID-19 vaccinations in Louisiana, please contact the Immunization Program at [la.immunization@la.gov](mailto:la.immunization@la.gov)