

MDPCP COVID-19 Update Webinars:

Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated 1/28/2022

Immunization Comparison

What is the comparison between natural immunity to individuals with the Covid vaccine primary series and individuals with the Covid vaccine primary series and a booster dose?

- It is important to note that individual levels of immunity vary. Data indicates that natural immunity from having recovered from a COVID-19 infection can allow for [90 days](#) of some level of immunity.

For individuals that have obtained the COVID-19 vaccine primary series, data indicates there is around [6 months](#) of immunity and that it wanes over time.

Data indicates that the COVID-19 vaccine booster provides [additional immunity](#) beyond the initial vaccine series.

Vaccines

General Vaccine Information and Primary Series

Are there any transportation resources for vaccine appointments?

- Yes, Uber and Lyft are offering resources and services to assist with transporting patients for vaccine appointments. Lyft's services do require the ride recipient to establish a Lyft account. More information on Uber's services can be found [here](#) and more information on Lyft's services can be found [here](#).

Additionally, the Maryland GoVax call center can also assist with transportation support. The call center number is 1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829).

What is the recommendation for individuals that obtained J&J for their initial COVID-19 vaccine?

- If it has been two months or longer since the individual obtained the initial J&J dose, then it is recommended that the individual obtain a [Pfizer or Moderna booster](#) given the CDC's updated booster recommendations. These updated booster recommendations include a [clinical preference](#) for the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines over the J&J COVID-19 vaccine.

What are the recommendations for providing COVID-19 vaccines to individuals recently ill with COVID-19?

- The CDC recommends that individuals who have been ill with COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19, should wait until symptoms subside and self isolate as outlined in this [criteria](#). The CDC *does recommend* the COVID-19 vaccine for individuals who have already had COVID-19, as evidence is emerging that shows that people get better protection from being fully vaccinated as compared to having had COVID-19.

Which practices are providing vaccines for 5-11-year-olds and 12-17-year-olds?

- The [Coronavirus page](#) on the MDH website includes a tool to find sites providing COVID-19 vaccines. This tool allows the user to filter by age bracket including an option to filter for sites administering vaccines for 5-11-year-olds and 12-17-year-olds. Please note that the only vaccine available for both of these adolescent age brackets is the Pfizer vaccine.

Third Doses for Immunocompromised and Booster Doses

If a patient is eligible for a primary dose or a booster dose, but was recently infected with COVID-19, when can they obtain that vaccine dose?

- Individuals that have tested positive for COVID-19 or have COVID-19 symptoms, should wait until they have recovered from illness and meet the appropriate [isolation guidelines per the CDC](#). Individuals with a known exposure should also wait until they meet the [quarantine guidelines per the CDC](#). The CDC does not advise any additional abstention period after completing the appropriate isolation and quarantine guidelines. Additional information can be found [here](#).

What is the recommendation for individuals that obtained J&J for their COVID-19 vaccine booster dose?

- This individual is considered fully vaccinated and does not need any additional COVID-19 vaccine doses at this time.

Additional information on the J&J vaccine can be found on the [CDC website here](#).

Who is eligible for a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?

- As of 1/5, the CDC has updated its recommendations for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. The CDC now recommends that all individuals that originally obtained the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for the primary series and are 12+ are now eligible for a booster dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. These individuals are recommended to obtain a Pfizer booster dose five months after completing the initial series.

The CDC also recommends individuals that originally obtained Moderna or J&J for their initial dose or doses and are 18+, obtain a COVID-19 vaccine booster.

Further information on booster guidance can be found in this [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Guide for PCPs](#).

What immunocompromised individuals are eligible for an additional dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?

- On 1/4, the CDC endorsed the FDA EUA expansions for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. The CDC now recommends all [moderately-to-severely immunocompromised individuals](#) that are 5+ and originally obtained the Pfizer vaccine for doses one and two, obtain a third dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to complete their primary series. All of the individuals that are eligible for a third dose are recommended to obtain the third dose 28 days after the second dose.

The CDC also recommends that [moderately-to-severely immunocompromised individuals](#) that are 18+ and originally obtained the Moderna vaccines for doses one and two, obtain a third dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to complete their primary series. The timeline for individuals that are eligible for a third dose are 28 days after the second dose.

What is the dosage for the Moderna booster if the individual originally obtained Pfizer or J&J?

- The dosage for the [Moderna COVID-19 booster is ½ dose](#) for everyone regardless of their initial COVID-19 vaccine type.

Should immunocompromised individuals obtain a booster dose in addition to their third dose?

- Immunocompromised individuals that originally obtained Pfizer are eligible for a booster five months after their third dose. Those individuals that originally obtained Moderna are eligible for a booster six months after the third dose. Additional information can be found [here](#).

Point-of-Care Testing

Which COVID-19 test is recommended for symptomatic patients compared to asymptomatic patients?

- It is recommended for symptomatic patients, that a point-of-care test be conducted as soon as the patient is symptomatic. For asymptomatic patients, it is recommended that a PCR test be conducted five days after known exposure.

Is the state supplying point-of-care COVID-19 tests?

- Yes, primary care practices can request free point-of-care COVID-19 tests through the state. To submit your request, please fill out this [google form](#) and a staff member will follow up with you about your request.

What license(s) is required for practices to provide point-of-care COVID-19 tests?

- In order to provide point-of-care COVID-19 tests, the practice needs to have a Maryland laboratory license and a CLIA certificate. Practices will need to submit a change form to add the COVID antigen test. Additional information can be found in the MDH Point-of-Care testing toolkit [here](#).

COVID-19 Therapeutics

How soon can an individual be vaccinated for COVID-19 after receiving monoclonal antibody treatment?

- Individuals that have received monoclonal antibody treatment should wait 90 days before obtaining a COVID-19 vaccine. Individuals that obtain monoclonal antibody treatment for post-exposure prophylaxis purposes can obtain a COVID-19 vaccine 30 days after receiving treatment. Additional guidance and information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

What antiviral treatments are available to individuals under the age of 18?

- [Paxlovid](#) is an antiviral oral agent that is eligible for individuals that have mild-to-moderate COVID-19, are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, weigh at least 40 kg, and are at least 12 years old. [Molnupiravir](#) is only available for individuals that are at least 18 years old.

Is there a cost of the oral antivirals to patients?

- Similar to monoclonal antibodies, the federal government has purchased the antivirals and there will be no cost to the patient for the treatment. There may be a delivery fee from the pharmacy.

Can primary care refer immunocompromised patients for Evusheld?

- Currently with limited supply, Evusheld is being allocated to hospitals. Primary care can contact a local hospital to determine if referral is possible. As supply increases, MDH will notify you of other referral pathways.

Which antivirals can be prescribed for pregnant or breastfeeding patients?

- Molnupiravir is not recommended during pregnancy. Breastfeeding is not recommended during the course of Molnupiravir treatment, but can be stopped for the course of treatment. For Paxlovid, there are patient-specific recommendations for pregnancy and breastfeeding, which are indicated in the Paxlovid FDA Fact Sheet.