



**NEVADA  
HEALTH  
RESPONSE**

## NV COVID-19 PLAYBOOK BRIEF: Eligibility for a COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose

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Nevada's COVID-19 Vaccination Playbook Brief is being updated to incorporate recent recommendations provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding booster shots for those who received the Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 Vaccine, including guidance to tailor the plan to Nevada's unique needs.

### BOOSTER UPDATE - SUMMARY

On September 22 and 23, 2021, the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met to discuss the evidence regarding waning COVID-19 vaccine immunity and to consider a booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for people who have completed the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine primary series.<sup>1</sup>

CDC now recommends people aged 65 years and older, residents aged 18 years and older in long-term care settings, and people aged 50-64 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 Vaccine at least six (6) months after completing their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series. Other groups **may** receive a booster shot based on their individual risk and benefit.

ACIP concluded the following:

- Efforts to vaccinate all eligible persons with a primary series of Pfizer, Moderna, or Janssen/J&J COVID-19 vaccine are crucial to controlling this pandemic and must continue.
- These booster recommendations are **only** for those persons vaccinated with a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine primary series.
- The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine series is protective at a minimum of two (2) weeks after receiving two (2) doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at least three (3) weeks apart.
- Booster doses **may not** be administered to persons who had a primary COVID-19 vaccination series with Moderna or Janssen/J&J vaccines or any combination of these vaccines.
- Shared clinical decision-making between provider and patient/client is not required for a Pfizer-BioNTech booster dose to be administered to any eligible person 18 years and older.

### SUPPORTING DATA

Studies show that the COVID-19 vaccine's protection against the virus may decrease over time and be less able to protect against the Delta variant. Although COVID-19 vaccination for adults aged 65 years and older remains effective in preventing severe disease, [recent data](#) suggest vaccination is less effective at preventing infection or milder symptomatic illness. Emerging evidence also indicates that among health care and other frontline workers, vaccine effectiveness against COVID-19 infections is decreasing over time, likely due to the combination of waning effectiveness as time passes as well as the greater infectiousness of the Delta variant. Data from a small clinical trial show that a Pfizer-BioNTech booster shot increased the immune response in trial participants who finished their primary series six (6) months earlier. With an increased immune response, people should have improved protection against COVID-19, including the Delta variant.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0924-booster-recommendations-.html>

More data on the effectiveness and safety of Moderna and Janssen/J&J COVID-19 vaccine booster dose recommendations is expected soon. Once those data are available, CDC and the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services will ensure the public is informed with a timely plan regarding boosters for those vaccine products.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTER DOSE?

COVID-19 Vaccine booster shots are available for the following Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine recipients who completed their initial series at least six (6) months ago:

- People who are 65 years or older
- People who are 18 years and older who have [underlying medical conditions](#)
- People who are 18 years and older who work in high-risk settings
- People who are 18 years and older who live in high-risk settings

Providers administering booster doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine should check the patient's CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Card and/or search for the patient's immunization record in Nevada WebIZ to ensure the patient has an official record of successfully completing the initial two-dose series with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Providers are also encouraged to stock and administer seasonal influenza vaccines, which can be safely Co-administered with any COVID-19 vaccine primary series dose as well as the Pfizer-BioNTech booster dose.

### Long Term Care Facility Staff & Residents (LTCF)

LTCF's include nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities, behavioral health centers, and assisted living facilities. Individuals with disabilities living in group settings will be prioritized within this group. These settings include Intensive Supported Living Arrangements (ISLA) and Supported Living Arrangements (SLA) for staff and residents. Staff in these facilities **may** seek out a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine booster dose.

Residents aged 18 years and older of long-term care settings **should** get a booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, because they often live closely together in a group setting and are usually older adults with underlying medical conditions; therefore, this population is at increased risk of infection and severe illness from COVID-19.

## OCCUPATIONAL & INSTITUTIONAL HIGH-RISK GROUPS WHO MAY SEEK OUT A COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTER DOSE

Adults aged 18-64 years who work or reside in certain settings (see descriptions below) may be at increased risk of being exposed to COVID-19, which could be spreading where they work or reside. Since that risk can vary across settings and based on how much COVID-19 is spreading in a community, people aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting **may** get a booster dose after considering their individual risks and benefits.

### Health Care Workforce and Support

Health care workforce includes paid and non-paid clinical and non-clinical employees, volunteers, interns, etc.

- General Medical & Surgical Hospital
- Psychiatric & Substance Abuse Hospitals
- Emergency Medical Services Personnel
- Frontline Public Health Workforce
- Laboratory Workers
- Pharmacists & Pharmacy Technicians
- Outpatient & Home Health Providers

PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS STAFF	
LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY AND NATIONAL SECURITY	Nevada Department of Public Safety (DPS) and associated Divisions (e.g., juvenile detention and probation, parole and probation, Nevada Highway Patrol, Division of Emergency Management, etc.); local Sheriffs' Offices and Police Departments; School and University Police; Airport Police; other peace officers not specifically named; Nevada Threat Analysis Center; mission critical national security workforce not covered by one of the five federal agencies receiving direct vaccine allocation.
STATE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS MANAGERS/STAFF	
<b>FRONTLINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT</b>	
EDUCATION (Pre-K & K-12) & CHILDCARE <i>(public/private/charter school settings)</i>	Educators in pre-school and K-12 settings, including teachers, aides, special education and special needs teachers, ESOL teachers, and para-educators; workers who provide services necessary to support educators/students, including but not limited to administrators, administrative staff, IT staff, media specialists, librarians, guidance counselors, essential workers in the Nevada Dept. of Education, etc.; workers who support the transportation and operational needs of school settings, including bus drivers, crossing guards, cafeteria staff, cleaning and maintenance staff, and bus depot and maintenance staff.
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION (NSHE) FRONTLINE EDUCATORS, STAFF & STUDENTS	Instructional and administrative faculty and all non-instructional staff types across the NSHE system who must work on campus, in close contact with others, and who cannot and have not been able to conduct their job duties from home. Most of this group includes medical and health faculty, staff, and students.
COMMUNITY SUPPORT FRONTLINE STAFF <i>(e.g. Frontline workers who support food, shelter, court/legal and social services, and other necessities of life for needy groups and individuals)</i>	Frontline workers who support food, shelter, court/legal services, and social services, and other necessities of life for needy groups and individuals, including in-need populations and COVID19 responders, including food bank distributors and food preparers (if applicable), front-facing state service staff (e.g., DETR, WIC, DWSS, DMV, ADSD, etc.), community coalition advocates/volunteers in the field (e.g., CHWs and others with public interaction). Veterinary nurses, technicians, veterinarians, and other services supporting individuals and organizations with service animals, search and rescue dogs, and support animals.

CONTINUITY OF GOVERNANCE (STATE & LOCAL)	Essential, frontline workers who provide for the continuity of governance at the state and local level.
ESSENTIAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	Public transportation system employees at the state and local levels (urban, interurban, and rural transit authorities), taxi and ride share services (e.g., Uber, Lyft, etc.), and other ground transport services not specifically named.
REMAINING ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE	Public health and environmental health workers specializing in sanitary and infection control, health care facility safety and emergency preparedness planning, public health/community health workers (including call center workers) who conduct community-based public health functions, conducting epidemiologic surveillance and compiling, analyzing, and communicating public health information, who cannot and have not been working from home.
MORTUARY SERVICES	Workers who prepare the deceased for burial or interment, conduct funerals, and/or operate sites or structures reserved for interment or cremation
<b>FRONTLINE SUPPLY CHAIN &amp; LOGISTICS</b>	
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING	<p>Food manufacturer workers and their supplier workers including those employed at food ingredient production and processing facilities; aquaculture and seafood harvesting facilities; slaughter and processing facilities for livestock, poultry, and seafood; animal food manufacturing and processing facilities; human food facilities producing by-products for animal food; industrial facilities producing co-products for animal food; beverage production facilities; the production of food packaging; and workers supporting agriculture irrigation infrastructure.</p> <p>Farmers, farm and ranch workers, and agribusiness support services, including workers involved in auction and sales; in food operations, including animal food, grain and oilseed storage, handling, and processing; in ingredient production; in manufacturing of veterinary drugs and biologics (e.g., vaccines).</p> <p>Animal agriculture workers to include those employed in veterinary health (including those involved in supporting emergency veterinary or livestock services); raising, caring for and management of animals for food, as well as pets; animal production operations; livestock markets, slaughter and packing plants, manufacturers, renderers, and associated regulatory and government workforce</p>

<p><b>END-TO-END ESSENTIAL GOODS SUPPLY CHAIN</b> <i>(includes manufacturing, transport, distribution and sale of essential items)</i></p>	<p>Warehouses, processing, packaging, storage, and distribution workforce (e.g., USPS, FedEx, UPS, messengers, truck drivers (local and long-haul), wholesale traders, etc.); workers enabling the sale of human food (e.g., grocery stores), animal food (including pet food, animal feed, and raw materials/ingredients), and beverage products at groceries, pharmacies, and convenience stores, including staff in retail customer support and IT support necessary for online orders, pickup, and/or delivery; warehouse operators, including vendors and support personnel critical for business continuity (including heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) and electrical engineers, security personnel, and janitorial staff), e-commerce or online commerce, and customer service for essential functions. Essential Manufacturing Workers necessary for the manufacturing of materials and products needed for medical supply chains, and for supply chains associated with transportation, energy, communications, food and agriculture, chemical manufacturing, nuclear facilities, the operation of dams, water and wastewater treatment, emergency services, and the defense industrial base.</p>
<p><b>UTILITIES AND COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE</b></p>	<p>Water and wastewater workers, dam workers, natural gas, energy/electric sectors, internet and mobile services, telephone service providers, news broadcasters (Radio and Television), newspaper publishers, including back-office staff as well as frontline journalists, and workers responsible for ensuring persons with disabilities have access to and the benefits of communications platforms.</p>
<p><b>NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION &amp; LOCAL EMERGENCY ROAD PERSONNEL</b></p>	<p>CDL operators, street cleanup crews, snowplow drivers, district training officers, safety/loss control section, and traffic incident management, emergency road crews.</p>
<p><b>ESSENTIAL AIRPORT OPERATIONS</b></p>	<p>Workers who support air transportation for cargo and passengers, including operation, distribution, maintenance, and sanitation. This includes air traffic controllers, flight dispatchers, maintenance personnel, ramp workers, fueling agents, flight crews, airport safety inspectors and engineers, airport operations personnel, aviation and aerospace safety workers, security, commercial space personnel, airport operations personnel, accident investigators, and flight instructors.</p>

OTHER ESSENTIAL TRANSPORTATION	Vehicle repair, maintenance, and transportation equipment manufacturing and distribution facilities; workers critical to the manufacturing, distribution, sales, rental, leasing, repair and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and the supply chains that enable these operations to facilitate continuity of travel-related operations for essential workers.
<b>FRONTLINE COMMERCE &amp; SERVICE INDUSTRIES</b>	
FOOD SERVICE AND HOSPITALITY	<p>Restaurant and quick serve food operations, including dark kitchen and food prep centers, carry-out, and delivery food workers.</p> <p>Workers in cafeterias used to feed workers or other congregate settings not already captured in an occupation group above. <i>*Specific to Nevada: frontline casino and resort employees not in food service who have prolonged/sustained customer interaction.</i></p>
HYGIENE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES	Workers who produce hygiene products; workers in laundromats, laundry services, and dry cleaners, workers providing personal and household goods, repair, and maintenance; workers providing disinfection services for essential facilities and modes of transportation and who support the sanitation of all food manufacturing processes and operations from wholesale to retail; workers necessary for the installation, maintenance, distribution, and manufacturing of water and space heating equipment and components; support required for continuity of services, including commercial disinfectant services, janitorial and cleaning personnel, and support personnel functions that need freedom of movement to access facilities; workers supporting the production of home cleaning, pest control, and other essential products necessary to clean, disinfect, sanitize, and ensure the cleanliness of residential homes, shelters, and commercial facilities.
DEPOSITORY CREDIT INSTITUTION WORKFORCE	Workers who are needed to provide, process, and maintain systems for processing, verifying, and recording financial transactions and services, including payment, clearing, and settlement; wholesale funding; insurance services; consumer and commercial lending; and public lending. Workers who are needed to provide business, commercial, and consumer access to bank and non-bank financial and/or lending services, including ATMs, lending and money transmission, lockbox banking, and armored car services.

<b>FRONTLINE INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE, SHELTER &amp; HOUSING (CONSTRUCTION)</b>	Workers performing housing and commercial construction related activities, including those supporting the sale, transportation, and installation of manufactured homes. Workers supporting government functions related to the building and development process, such as inspections, permitting, and plan review services that can be modified to protect the public health, but fundamentally should continue and enable the continuity of the construction industry. Workers such as plumbers, electricians, exterminators, builders (including building and insulation), contractors, HVAC Technicians, technicians for elevators, escalators and moving walkways, landscapers, and other service providers who provide services, including temporary construction, that are necessary to maintaining safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, businesses, and buildings, such as hospitals and senior living facilities.
<b>ESSENTIAL MINING OPERATIONS</b>	Frontline mining and processing operations and supplier/vendor industries essential to such operations.
<b>OTHER</b>	
<b>COMMUNITY SUPPORT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF</b>	Food Bank, state service office (e.g., DETR, WIC, DWSS, DMV, ADSD, etc.), and Community Coalition administrative and other support staff who can and have been working from home.
<b>NSHE STUDENTS LIVING IN CAMPUS-SPONSORED RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS</b> <i>(e.g. dorms, campus-sponsored apartments, etc.)</i>	
<b>NSHE REMAINING WORKFORCE</b>	

## PEOPLE WITH UNDERLYING MEDICAL CONDITIONS

The risk of severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age. Further, adults of any age with the following conditions can be more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19. Severe illness means that a person with COVID-19 is more likely to need hospitalization, intensive care, a ventilator to help them breathe, or they may even die from the virus. People who are 65 years and older or 50-64 years with underlying medical conditions **should** get a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Adults aged 18-49 years with underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. However, that risk is likely not as high as it would be for adults aged 50 years and older with underlying conditions. Therefore, people ages 18-49 years with underlying medical conditions **may** get a booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine based on their individual benefits and risks.

- Asthma
- Blood disorders such as Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) and Thalassemia
- Cerebrovascular disease including Stroke (CVA)
- Chronic kidney disease (CKD)
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Cystic Fibrosis (CF)
- Diabetes mellitus, type 1 and 2
- Down Syndrome
- Heart conditions (heart failure, coronary artery disease (CAD), or cardiomyopathies)
- HIV/AIDS
- Immune deficiencies
- Liver disease, including Cirrhosis, Hepatitis, and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease
- Morbid obesity (BMI  $\geq$  40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Neurologic conditions, including dementia
- Other lung diseases including interstitial lung disease, pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension
- Overweight (BMI  $>$  25 kg/m<sup>2</sup> - 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Pregnancy and postpartum
- Severe obesity (BMI  $>$  30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> -  $<$  40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Smoking, current and former
- Solid organ or blood stem cell transplantation
- Substance use disorders, e.g., alcohol, opioids, etc.
- Use of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressive medications



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (BOOSTERS)

### 1. When can I get a COVID-19 vaccine booster if I am NOT in one of the recommended groups?

Additional groups may be recommended to receive a booster dose as more data becomes 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.

### 2. What should people who received Moderna or Janssen/J&J COVID-19 vaccines do?

The ACIP and CDC's recommendations are bound by what the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's authorization allows. Right now, the Pfizer-BioNTech booster authorization only applies to people whose primary series was the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. People in the recommended groups who got the Moderna or Janssen/J&J vaccine will likely need a booster dose. More data on the effectiveness and safety of Moderna and Janssen/J&J booster doses are expected soon. Once those data are available, we will ensure the public is informed with a timely plan for Moderna and Janssen/J&J booster doses.

### 3. If we need a booster dose, does that mean the vaccines aren't working?

No. The COVID-19 vaccines are working well to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death, even against the widely circulating Delta variant. However, public health experts are starting to see reduced protection, especially among certain populations, against mild and moderate disease.

### 4. What are the risks to getting a Pfizer-BioNTech booster dose?

So far, the [reactions reported](#) after getting the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster dose were similar to those seen with the two-dose primary series. Fatigue and pain at the injection site were the most commonly reported side effects, and overall, most side effects were mild to moderate. However, as with the two-dose primary series, [serious side effects are rare](#), but may occur.

### 5. Am I still considered "fully vaccinated" if I DO NOT get a booster dose?

Yes! Everyone is still considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series (e.g., Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna), or two weeks after a single dose vaccine (e.g., Janssen/J&J).

For more information go to [NVCovidFighter.org](https://www.nvcovidfighter.org)

