

PRESS RELEASE



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Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road, Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



CHCC-PR-22-020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Second COVID-19 vaccine booster available to individuals 50 years and older and certain immunocompromised individuals

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, with guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration, will be offering a second COVID-19 vaccine booster shot to **individuals aged 50 years and older** and **certain immunocompromised individuals**.

Eligible individuals can obtain a booster shot by walking into the Multi-Purpose Center mass vaccination site, Tuesday to Saturday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., and requesting the additional dose.

COVID-19 vaccines are also available at select private clinics, such as Medical Associates of the Pacific, Kagman Isla Community Health, Marianas Medical Center, as well as the following CHCC outpatient clinics: Tinian Health Center, Rota Health Center, Family Care Clinic, Children's Clinic, and Women's Clinic. Contact each clinic for more information.

Eligible individuals who received a Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine may receive a second booster shot at least four (4) months after completing their first booster. The second booster shot must be an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna).

Individuals considered moderate to severe immunocompromised (weakened immune system) include people on chemotherapy or people who have had a solid organ transplant. For more information regarding who may be eligible for a second booster shot, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>. The list presented does not include all possible conditions that put a person at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Individuals who have questions about booster doses should talk to their health care provider about their medical condition and whether getting a booster shot is appropriate for them.

For more information on receiving a booster shot, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>.

The COVID-19 vaccines approved and authorized in the U.S. continue to protect people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and even dying—especially people who have received a booster.

Adverse reactions reported after getting booster shots were similar to the primary series/shot. 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 2-shot primary series, serious side effects are rare but may occur.

For more information about CHCC programs, follow @cnmichcc on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter; visit <https://www.chcc.health>; or call (670) 234-8950.

This press release may be found online at <https://www.chcc.health/pressrelease.php>.

Who Can Get a Booster

<p>Primary Series COVID-19 vaccine: Pfizer-BioNTech</p>	<p>Who should get on booster: Everyone 12 years and older</p> <p>Who can get a second booster: Adults 50 years and older</p>	<p>When to get your booster: At least 5 months after completing your primary COVID-19 vaccination series.</p> <p>If eligible for a second booster, at least 4 months after your first booster.</p>	<p>Which booster can you get: Adults 18 years and older should get an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) for the first booster in most* situations.</p> <p>The second booster must be an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.</p> <p>Teens 12-17 years old may only get a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster.</p>
<p>Primary Series COVID-19 vaccine: Moderna</p>	<p>Who should get on booster: Adults 18 years and older</p> <p>Who can get a second booster: Adults 50 years and older</p>	<p>When to get your booster: At least 5 months after completing your primary COVID-19 vaccination series.</p> <p>If eligible for a second booster, at least 4 months after your first booster.</p>	<p>Which booster can you get: For the first booster, an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) is preferred in most* situations.</p> <p>The second booster must be an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.</p>
<p>Primary Series COVID-19 vaccine: Johnson & Johnson/Janssen</p>	<p>Who should get on booster: Adults 18 years and older</p> <p>Who can get a second booster: Anyone who received a J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine for both their primary dose and booster.</p> <p>Adults 50 years and older who first received a J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of what type of booster they received.</p>	<p>When to get your booster: At least 2 months after receiving your J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccination.</p> <p>If eligible for a second booster, at least 4 months after your first booster.</p>	<p>Which booster can you get: For the first booster, an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) is preferred in most* situations.</p> <p>The second booster must be an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.</p>

*Although mRNA vaccines are preferred for the first booster, J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine [may be considered in some situations](#).