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## Maine Health Alert Network (HAN) System

# PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

**To:** All Health Care  
**From:** Isaac Benowitz, MD, State Epidemiologist  
**Subject:** **Expanded Eligibility of COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots for All Adults 18+**  
**Date / Time:** Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 11:15AM  
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### EXPANDED ELIBILITY OF COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTER SHOTS FOR ALL ADULTS 18+

Based on sustained COVID-19 community transmission rates, Maine CDC has concluded that all individuals are at high risk for COVID-19 exposure. **Accordingly, effective immediately, all Mainers age 18 years or older who received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine are eligible for a booster dose at least six months after the second dose of their primary series.** Those who received the single-dose J&J vaccine remain eligible for a booster dose at least two months after their initial dose.

Recent clinical data have shown that, while COVID-19 vaccination remains highly effective at preventing infection and severe disease, protection may decrease over time. At the same time, rates of COVID-19 in Maine have increased in recent weeks, as have hospitalizations, deaths, and test positivity rates. In addition, all 16 counties in Maine remain at a “high” level of community transmission according to the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). According to the [U.S. FDA](#), individuals 18+ are eligible for a booster if they have “frequent institutional or occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2.” Based on current COVID-19 transmission data, the Maine CDC has concluded that all individuals in Maine satisfy this eligibility criteria.

Vaccination for all eligible Mainers remains the top priority to reduce infections, hospitalizations, and deaths related to COVID-19. Booster shots help reduce COVID-19 transmission in communities and protect those at risk of severe disease. Maine CDC encourages all Maine people who are now eligible for a booster shot to receive one.

COVID-19 vaccine providers should administer booster doses to any person age 18 or older who is now eligible.

To find a location to get a COVID-19 vaccine or booster shot, go to <https://www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines/vaccination-sites>.

**Useful Resources:**

- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>.
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration. COVID-19 Vaccines. <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines>.