PRESS RELEASE



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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFERING PFIZER, MODERNA, AND JOHNSON & JOHNSON COVID-19 BOOSTER SHOTS

Booster shots of all three vaccines in the United States are available at Health Department COVID-19 vaccination clinics and other health care providers

LARGO, MD – Following the <u>FDA's emergency use authorization</u>, the <u>CDC's official recommendation</u>, and the State of Maryland's approval, Prince George's County residents in the following groups who received a **Pfizer or Moderna** COVID-19 vaccine are eligible for a booster shot six months or more after completing their initial series:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings
- Age 18+ who have <u>underlying medical conditions</u>
- Age 18+ who work or live in <u>high-risk settings</u>

Individuals 18 and older who received the **Johnson & Johnson** COVID-19 vaccine are eligible for a booster shot if they were vaccinated two or more months ago.

"Federal health regulators have recommended booster doses to address the possibility of decreasing immunity over time. The booster dose will help maintain levels of immunity for longer," said Prince George's County Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health, Human Services, and Education Dr. George L. Askew. "The availability of booster shots of all vaccine brands used in the United States is another critical step in keeping more Prince Georgians as safe and as

healthy as possible, especially those who are at highest risk of severe illness or exposure to the virus."

Residents may self-attest at a clinic that they are eligible for a booster dose. The FDA and the CDC now allow for mix and match dosing for booster shots. Eligible individuals who prefer a vaccine brand may choose which one they receive as a booster dose, regardless of the brand they previously received.

"Data continue to show each of these vaccines are highly effective in reducing the risk of hospitalization and death due to COVID-19. Prince Georgians now have more options and opportunities to strengthen their protection," said Prince George's County Health Officer Dr. Ernest Carter. "At the same time, we are continuing the push for more eligible residents to take that first step and get their initial doses as soon as possible to greatly increase their chances of staying healthy and alive."

The County and other health care providers are also offering third doses of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to residents who are <u>moderately or severely immunocompromised</u>, based on CDC guidance. A third dose of Pfizer or Moderna is recommended at least 28 days for those individuals who are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 and may not build the same level of immunity to a two-dose vaccine series compared to people who are not immunocompromised.

Visit <u>mypgc.us/COVIDvaccine</u> for more information about COVID-19 vaccinations, including locations and hours of operation for vaccine clinics operated by the County and other public and private organizations.

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