

Third Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine

September 13, 2021

To All Veterans:

On August 12, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine for certain people with weakened immune systems who received the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines.

Currently, the third dose of the vaccine is only recommended for people with moderate to severe compromised immune systems who received the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines. This includes those with organ transplants and those diagnosed with conditions that are considered to have a similar level of compromised immune system.

The VA Maryland Health Care System is currently offering the third dose of the vaccine to Veteran patients with a compromised immune system beginning. **Please note that Veteran patients with a compromised immune system will receive a postcard with the instructions on how to schedule an appointment to receive a third dose of the vaccine.**

We anticipate the third dose of the vaccine will be made available to additional people who received the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines later in September 2021. Veterans do not need to call and request the third dose of the vaccine since they will receive instructions on how to schedule an appointment when it is available. To receive the latest updates about the third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit www.maryland.va.gov and enter your email address under “Connect with the VA Maryland Health Care System.”

Thank you!

Jonathan R. Eckman, P.E.
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Important Reasons Why You Should Receive The COVID-19 Vaccine If You Are Still Unvaccinated

The vaccine can keep you and your family protected from COVID-19:

The COVID-19 vaccine saves lives and protects you from serious illness from COVID-19. All the COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing you from getting very sick, needing to be hospitalized, and they are highly effective at preventing death. It will also prevent you from getting long-term COVID effects, where persistent symptoms often include brain fog, fatigue, headaches, dizziness and shortness of breath.

Getting vaccinated will also protect those your love. When you are vaccinated, you are much less likely to pass COVID-19 to others you live with and spend time with. It is also an opportunity to serve your community and the nation by helping to stop the spread to others.

The COVID-19 vaccines are safe:

We know you put your confidence in us, and we do not take that trust lightly. We have reviewed the evidence from the clinical trials and safety monitoring of all three vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and any serious vaccine-related problems are extremely rare. Some people who receive the COVID-19 vaccine experience a reaction including mild symptoms like a fever, headache or chills. These usually go away on their own within a few days. These side effects are a sign your immune system is doing exactly what it is supposed to do - it is working and building up protection to the disease.

How can you get your vaccine?

If you have not yet received your COVID-19 vaccination, call **410-605-7333** Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment. Our staff will help you find a time that's convenient for you.

Already vaccinated but haven't told us yet?

If you have received your COVID-19 vaccine outside of VA, please send a copy of your CDC vaccination card to your primary care team via secure messaging through MyHealthVet, or bring it with you to your next scheduled primary care appointment.

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