



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Ashwin Vasani, MD, MPH
Commissioner

March 1, 2024

Dear Colleague,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that [people 65 years of age and older should receive one additional dose of any updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine](#) (Pfizer, Moderna or Novavax), administered at least 4 months after the previous dose of updated COVID-19 vaccine. People who recently had SARS-CoV-2 infection may consider delaying a COVID-19 vaccine dose by 3 months.

The recommendation for the additional dose is based on a thorough [review of evidence](#):

- While there are increases in COVID-19 during respiratory virus season, **the risk of severe illness due to COVID-19 continues throughout the year and is highest in those 65 years of age and older.**
- Updated COVID-19 vaccines provide protection against JN.1 and other currently circulating variants. However, vaccine effectiveness is expected to wane.
- An additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine is most cost-effective in older adults and populations with a higher prevalence of risk factors, such as underlying conditions.
- COVID-19 vaccines have a favorable safety profile and no new safety concerns have been identified for the updated 2023-2024 vaccine.

As a reminder, [everyone 6 months of age and older](#) should get one dose of an updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine. People who have not yet received an updated dose will benefit the most from vaccination, especially older adults and those with underlying medical conditions. Only about 40% of people 65 years of age and older have received an updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine nationally.

[People who are moderately to severely immunocompromised](#) continue to have the option to receive one additional dose of updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine at least 2 months following their last updated COVID-19 vaccine dose. Further additional dose(s) may be administered, informed by the clinical judgement of a healthcare provider and personal preference and circumstances. Any further additional doses should be administered at least 2 months after the last updated COVID-19 vaccine dose.

A strong provider recommendation increases vaccine uptake. Thank you for continuing to recommend COVID-19 vaccines for your eligible patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bindu Crouch'.

Bindu Crouch, MD, MPH
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization