UPDATED COVID-19 VACCINE FAQS FOR LONG-TERM CARE SETTINGS

Reflects CDC's updated COVID-19 vaccine recommendations.

ELIGIBILITY

1. **Who is eligible to receive an updated COVID-19 vaccine?**
   - Updated COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for everyone 6 months and older.
   - Everyone 6 months of age and older with moderate or severe immunocompromise may receive additional doses (talk to your healthcare provider for more information).

   Timing and other details are available at bit.ly/timingguide.

2. **Which COVID-19 vaccines are available?**
   - Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines are authorized for use in children 6 months-11 years.
   - Spikevax (by Moderna) and Comirnaty (by Pfizer-BioNTech) are licensed for use in people 12 years of age and older.
   - Novavax is authorized for use in people 12 years of age and older.

3. **What if someone recently had a COVID-19 infection?**
   - Defer COVID-19 vaccination until recovery from the acute illness (if symptoms were present) and criteria to discontinue isolation have been met. People who recently had a SARS-CoV-2 infection **may** consider delaying COVID-19 vaccination by 3 months from symptom onset or positive test (if infection was asymptomatic). For more information, refer to Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines.

4. **Can COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines be administered at the same time?**
   - Yes, individuals may receive routine administration of all age-appropriate doses of vaccines simultaneously for whom no specific contraindications exist at the time of the healthcare visit.
   - Flu vaccine is recommended annually during September or October.
   - RSV vaccine is recommended for everyone 75 years of age and older and those 60-74 years of age who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease, including those living in nursing homes or other long-term care facilities.

BENEFITS AND RISKS

5. **Who might benefit most from getting an updated vaccine?**
   - The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months and older stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccine. Those who are at highest risk of severe consequences of COVID-19 and should prioritize getting vaccinated include:
     - Older adults 65+
     - People who are pregnant
     - People who are immunocompromised
     - People with certain medical conditions that increase risk of getting very sick from COVID-19 (e.g., people with heart, lung, or kidney disease; diabetes; or dementia).
     - People with disabilities
     - People who live with someone who is immunocompromised, at higher risk for severe disease, or can't be vaccinated due to age or other reasons.
     - People who are at higher risk of exposure to COVID-19 (e.g., live or work in a LTCF or in a community where the COVID-19 level is high).
   - People who have not yet received an updated dose should get it now. (See additional information above for persons who have recently had a COVID-19 infection).
   - People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised may receive additional updated doses. The recommended vaccine type and number of doses are based on age and vaccination history. Immunocompromised people who are unlikely to mount an adequate immune response to COVID-19 vaccination, may be eligible for a monoclonal antibody product for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) called pemivibart (Pemgarda™). However, it is important to remember that PrEP with Pemgarda™ is **not** a substitute for vaccination. Immunocompromised individuals who may derive benefit from COVID-19 vaccination should receive a COVID-19 vaccine. In individuals who have recently received a COVID-19 vaccine, Pemgarda™ should be administered at least 2 weeks after vaccination.

6. **What are the benefits of an updated vaccine?**
   - The updated vaccine protects against more recent strains of the virus which causes COVID-19.
   - Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine is a safer and more dependable way to build immunity to COVID-19.

- The vaccine reduces the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. Studies have shown that the vaccine can reduce the risk of long COVID and reduces the severity of symptoms if a COVID-19 infection does occur.
- The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months and older stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccine.

7. What are the risks of an updated vaccine?

- The most common side effects of COVID-19 vaccines include redness and swelling at the injection site, fatigue, and fever.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

8. How should LTCFs promote updated COVID-19 vaccines?

- LTCFs **should offer** updated vaccines to eligible residents and staff.
- LTCFs should inform eligible residents and staff about current recommendations and how to access updated vaccine doses (MyTurn and Vaccines.gov).

RESOURCES

- LTCF COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit
- COVID-19 Vaccine Resources for Long-Term Care Facilities Resources
- CDC Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines