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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Criteria for Third Dose of mRNA Vaccine

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a third dose of COVID-19 mRNA vaccines for people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised on Friday, Aug. 13.

Patients who are eligible have completed a two-dose series of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine 28 days or more prior to the additional dose AND are considered moderately to severely immunocompromised.

This includes people who have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last two years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response

For people who received either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine series, a third dose of the same mRNA vaccine should be used. If the mRNA vaccine product given for the first two doses is not available or is unknown, either mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product may be administered. You do not need to look up the vaccine to confirm.

- A person should NOT receive more than three total mRNA vaccine doses.
- Johnson & Johnson vaccines should not be used as the additional dose. ONLY mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) can be used for a third additional dose.

Emerging data have demonstrated that immunocompromised people who have low or no protection following two doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines may have an improved response after an additional dose of the same vaccine.

Currently a Physicians Order is not required to receive a third dose of mRNA vaccine. If you qualify, based on the criteria listed, you can make an appointment at [www.ourshot.in.gov](http://www.ourshot.in.gov).

Marshall County Health Department offers COVID 19 vaccine clinic on Mondays from 9a-12 noon and 1:30p-3p. You can also find other locations near you but visiting [www.ourshot.in.gov](http://www.ourshot.in.gov) and putting in your zip code. Locations will appear near you. Local Pharmacies may also offer vaccine. Call for availability.

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