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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

October 25, 2021

Booster shots now available for Moderna, J&J and Pfizer eligible residents

Following approval by various federal agencies, individuals who received the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine are now eligible to get a booster shot 6 months following completion of their primary series. This includes people ages 65 and older; individuals 18 through 64 years of age at high risk of severe COVID-19 due to underlying health conditions; and those at high risk of COVID-19 infection due to occupational or institutional exposure. Everyone who received the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) should get a booster dose if it has been two months since their first dose.

The approval late last week of a booster for those originally receiving the Moderna and J&J vaccines by the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is in addition to an earlier approval for a booster shot for those eligible who previously received a Pfizer vaccine.

“We know the vaccines work and the booster will increase that level of protection,” said Dr. Joshua Meyerson, Medical Director. “We are urging those who are eligible to receive the booster shot to do so by making an appointment at any of our clinics in our two-county jurisdiction,” he said, adding that, based on availability, COVID-19 clinics should have all three vaccines available for clients. Other locations where booster vaccines are available can be [found here](#).

There are now booster recommendations for all three available COVID-19 vaccines in the United States. Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different brand. CDC’s recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

For individuals who received an mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) COVID-19 primary vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at six months or more after their initial series:

- 65 years and older.
- Age 18+ who live in [long-term care settings](#).
- Age 18+ who have [underlying medical conditions](#).
- Age 18+ who work or live in [high-risk settings](#).

People over age 18 who received a single dose of the J&J (Janssen) vaccine **should** receive a single COVID-19 booster dose at least two months after completing their primary series.

According to the CDC, [occupations at increased risk](#) for COVID-19 exposure and transmission include frontline essential workers and health care workers including:

- First responders (EMS, health care workers, firefighters, police, congregate care staff).
- Education staff (teachers, support staff, daycare workers).
- Food and agriculture workers.
- Manufacturing workers.
- Corrections workers.
- U.S. Postal Service workers
- Public transit workers.
- Grocery store workers.

After a careful examination of the [latest data](#), and deliberative discussion around booster shots, the updated guidance from CDC follows the FDA's [October 20th amendment](#) of the emergency use authorizations for COVID-19 vaccines to allow for the use of a single booster dose. Those who receive a Moderna booster will get a dose half the amount received during the primary series.

Those attending a clinic should bring their COVID-19 vaccine card or immunization record with them when getting their booster dose, which are available through the health department or at any vaccine provider that have Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson and Johnson vaccines.

Vaccination is our most powerful tool. The health department offers convenient COVID-19 vaccination clinics for all area residents and visitors 12 and older by appointment ahead of time. Parent consent is required for minors. Public health nurses are on-site at these events and able to answer any questions about the vaccines. Anyone may call the Michigan COVID-19 hotline at 888-535-6136 if they have questions or are not able to find a time or date that works for them and/or their child. Clinics offer clients a choice of Pfizer, Moderna, or J&J's Janssen unless otherwise noted. Upcoming clinics for appointments only include:

Tuesday, October 26th

- Suttons Bay Middle School Gymnasium, 310 S. Elm Street, Suttons Bay, MI 49682
- Time: 1:00-5:00pm
- Vaccine: Moderna, J&J Janssen, and Pfizer (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
- To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Wednesday, October 27th

- Crystal Cafe, 1681 Benzie Hwy, Benzonia, MI 49616
- Time: 1:00- 5:00pm
- Vaccine: Moderna, J&J Janssen, and Pfizer (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
- To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

COVID-19 Testing

The health department is offering free COVID-19 testing with the support of HONU lab. The test is free, and no doctor's order is required. Pre-registration is not required, but it is recommended to reduce time spent at the testing clinic, and walk-ins are welcome. Testing is available:

- On Monday and Thursday, from 10 am – 3 pm at the Suttons Bay Old Middle School. To register visit: <http://honumg.info/OldSuttonsBayMS>
- On Tuesday and Friday, from 10 am – 3 pm at the Crystal Café in Benzonia. To register visit: <https://honumg.info/CrystalCafe>

COVID-19 Case Counts

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting the following case information:

- On Friday, October 22, 10 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (7), and Leelanau (3).
- On Saturday, October 23, 11 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (4), and Leelanau (7).
- On Sunday, October 24, 3 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (2), and Leelanau (1).
- Today, October 25, 12 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (5) and Leelanau (7).

As of 4:00 p.m. today, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,616, Leelanau– 1,629
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 149, Leelanau– 113
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,432, Leelanau– 1,496
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 35, Leelanau– 20
- Hospitalized: 200 total; 3 currently

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