



Shawnee County Health Department

Shawnee County Health Department
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www.shawneehealth.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA RELEASE

Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose Eligibility and Availability

Topeka, Kan. – On Friday September 24, 2021, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) authorized all COVID-19 vaccine providers in Kansas to begin administering Pfizer-BioNTech booster shots to eligible individuals following the guidance received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the same morning.

Only individuals who **completed a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 primary vaccine series and received the last dose of their 2-dose series at least 6 months ago** are currently eligible for the vaccine booster dose. The following recommendations from the CDC outlines the eligibility for certain individuals:

CDC recommends the following individuals *should* receive a booster:

- Aged 65 and older
- Residents in long term care settings
- Aged 50-64 with medical conditions at high risk for severe disease from COVID-19 (see attachment)

CDC recommends the following individuals *may* receive a booster:

- Aged 18-49 with medical conditions at high risk for severe disease from COVID-19 (see attachment)
- Aged 18-65 and at high risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting, based on individual benefits and risks (see attachment)

Shawnee County residents qualifying based upon an underlying condition or occupational setting will only require a self-attestation; thus, a letter or prescription from a qualified medical provider or a letter from a workplace setting will **not be required**. Individuals are encouraged to bring their CDC vaccination card as documentation of their original Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine series; however, this is **not required**.

Individuals who completed the Moderna or Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 primary vaccine series are not approved to receive a booster dose at this time. Furthermore, Moderna and Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 vaccines are not approved to be given as boosters to individuals who completed a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 primary vaccine series.



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The Shawnee County Health Department (SCHD) continues to strongly encourage residents to protect themselves by getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Many opportunities to receive a COVID-19 vaccine continue to exist in our community and can be found easily through the [CDC's Vaccine tool](#).

The SCHD will be offering Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster, in addition to other vaccines, at our Clinical Services Division, located at 2115 SW 10th Ave, by appointment only. Individuals can call 785.251.5700 to schedule an appointment for the following hours:

Monday, Thursday, Friday

8:00am - 11:00am

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Tuesday

10:00am - 1:00pm

3:00pm - 6:00pm

Wednesday

8:00am - 11:00am

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian and everyone entering the building over the age of 2 is required to wear a mask. If accommodations are needed due to a medical condition please call 785.251.5700.

Community members who are homebound and are interested in receiving either a primary or Pfizer-BioNTech boost dose can call the COVID-19 hotline at 785.251.4949 to schedule an appointment.

Questions regarding COVID-19 vaccines can be sent to CovidVaccine@snco.us.

Attachments: Underlying Medical Conditions Associated with High Risk for Severe COVID-19
Workers at High Risk for COVID-19 Exposure

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Shawnee County Health Department is committed to working in partnership with our community to promote and protect the optimal health of all people by bridging gaps to eliminate health inequities, respecting the diversity of our community, through adaptive and innovative processes.

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Underlying Medical Conditions Associated with High Risk for Severe COVID-19

Supported by meta-analysis/systematic review:

- Cancer
- Cerebrovascular disease
- Chronic kidney disease*
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Diabetes mellitus, type 1 and type 2*
- Heart conditions (such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies)
- Obesity (BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²)*
- Pregnancy and recent pregnancy
- Smoking, current and former

Supported by mostly observational (e.g., cohort, case-control, or cross-sectional) studies:

- Children with certain underlying conditions
- Down syndrome
- HIV (human immunodeficiency virus)
- Neurologic conditions, including dementia
- Overweight (BMI ≥ 25 kg/m², but < 30 kg/m²)
- Other lung disease (including interstitial lung disease, pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension)*
- Sickle cell disease
- Solid organ or blood stem cell transplantation
- Substance use disorders
- Use of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressive medications

Supported by mostly case series, case reports, or, if other study design, the sample size is small (and no systematic review or meta-analysis available was available to review):

- Cystic fibrosis
- Thalassemia

Supported by mixed evidence:

- Asthma
- Hypertension*
- Immune deficiencies
- Liver disease

* indicates underlying conditions for which there is evidence for pregnant and non-pregnant people

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-care/underlyingconditions.html>



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Workers at High Risk for COVID-19 Exposure

Very High Exposure Risk

Jobs with a very high potential for exposure to known or suspected sources of SARS-CoV-2 during specific medical, postmortem, or laboratory procedures. Examples of workers in this category include:

- Healthcare workers (e.g., doctors, nurses, dentists, paramedics, emergency medical technicians) performing aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., intubation, cough induction procedures, bronchoscopies, some dental procedures and exams, or invasive specimen collection) on known or suspected COVID-19 patients.
- Healthcare or laboratory personnel collecting or handling specimens from known or suspected COVID-19 patients (e.g., manipulating cultures from known or suspected COVID-19 patients).
- Morgue workers performing autopsies, which generally involve aerosol-generating procedures, on the bodies of people who are known to have, or are suspected of having, COVID-19 at the time of their death.

High Exposure Risk

Jobs with a high potential for exposure to known or suspected sources of SARS-CoV-2. Examples of workers in this category include:

- Healthcare delivery and support staff (hospital staff who must enter patients' rooms) exposed to known or suspected COVID-19 patients.
- Medical transport workers (ambulance vehicle operators) moving known or suspected COVID-19 patients in enclosed vehicles.
- Mortuary workers involved in preparing bodies for burial or cremation of people known to have, or suspected of having, COVID-19 at the time of death.
- Those who have frequent or sustained contact with coworkers, including under close working conditions [indoors or in poorly ventilated spaces](#) in various types of industrial, manufacturing, agriculture, construction, and other [critical infrastructure workplaces](#).
- Those who have frequent indoor or poorly ventilated contact with the general public, including workers in retail stores, grocery stores or supermarkets, pharmacies, transit and transportation operations, law enforcement and emergency response operations, restaurants, and bars.

Source: Occupational Safety and Health Administration; <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/hazards>

Further, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has provided the following list to be included in occupational and institutional settings at high risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission:

Healthcare workers, teachers, grocery store workers, retail workers, first responders, residents and staff of congregant settings (corrections, homeless shelters, group homes, etc).