

HHS Releases plan for COVID-19 Booster Doses for all Americans August 18, 2021

Today, Health and Human Services (HHS) public health and medical experts released a joint statement on the plan for COVID-19 booster doses for all Americans beginning the week of September 20, 2021. At that time, the individuals who were fully vaccinated earliest in the vaccination rollout, including many health care providers, nursing home residents, and other seniors, will likely be eligible for a booster.

HHS, CDC, and FDA continue to study data to understand how long vaccine protection lasts. The authorized COVID-19 vaccines continue to effectively reduce the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, even against the highly prevalent Delta variant. Evidence has shown that over time vaccines provide less protection against mild and moderate COVID-19 disease in certain populations. People who are at higher risk or were vaccinated during the earlier phases of the vaccination rollout might need a booster dose to continue to have the maximum protection that the vaccines provide.

CDC's independent advisory committee, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), will continue to meet and discuss data on the evolution of the pandemic and the use of COVID-19 vaccines. ACIP will make further recommendations on the use of boosters for the public after a thorough review of the evidence. [For more information.](#)

Included is a partner packet which includes key messages and talking points, links to the new MMWRs, and the draft joint statement. Our top priority is still protecting Iowans from COVID-19 and its complications with safe and effective vaccines. IDPH remains committed to providing additional information regarding booster doses as it becomes available. Thank you for your continued leadership in the fight against COVID-19.