



Main Line Health®

**Thomas Lawrence, MD, CMD**  
System Medical Director of Geriatric Medicine  
and Long Term Care, Main Line Health  
Medical Director, Dunwoody Village



August 25, 2021

## **Booster Vaccine for Immunocompromised Individuals**

### **Dear Residents and Family Members**

As you may know, on 8/12/21 the FDA extended the EUA Approval for Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for a booster dose—a third dose of the same vaccine previously given—for patients who have moderate to severe immunocompromise and are at least 28 days out from their second dose of vaccine.

The qualifying conditions that define this level of immunocompromise include the following conditions that are specifically mentioned in the CDC guidance:

- Active cancer treatment;
- Organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive medications;
- Stem cell transplant within 2 years or on immunosuppressive medications;
- Moderate-severe primary immunodeficiency (rare conditions);
- Advanced or untreated HIV;
- High-dose corticosteroid treatment long-term (dose equivalent to  $\geq$  Prednisone 20mg daily) or certain other immunosuppressive drugs.

**Note: The most important point is that only these conditions are indications for getting a booster dose at this time. People without moderate-severe immunocompromise are not recommended to receive a booster vaccine now.**

In the next few weeks the CDC and its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices will determine what will be recommended for booster vaccines for all other Americans. If you do not have one of these conditions or very few other conditions causing moderate to severe immunocompromise a booster vaccine is not recommended at this time. The vaccine manufacturers may also develop a special expanded booster vaccine in the coming weeks—not just a third dose of the same vaccine—so stay tuned for what is recommended next. For persons who received the Janssen vaccine there is no booster vaccination recommended at this time.

We recommend that you check with your Primary Care Physician if you need assistance to help determine if you have one of these immunocompromise conditions. If you receive primary care in the Dunwoody Village Wellness Clinic you may call there to determine if you have one of these conditions. There are multiple locations where a booster vaccine may be obtained. Any other questions can also be directed to the nurses in the Wellness Clinic. Thank you.

**Lankenau Medical Center | Bryn Mawr Hospital | Paoli Hospital | Riddle Hospital | Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital  
Mirmont Treatment Center | HomeCare & Hospice | Lankenau Institute for Medical Research**