



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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January 23, 2022

TO: All Incarcerated Individuals

FROM: DOC COVID-19 Vaccine Team

SUBJECT: Getting your COVID-19 Booster

On October 23, 2021 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) announced updated recommendations for COVID-19 vaccine booster doses. A COVID-19 vaccine booster dose is now recommended for all individuals who live or work in a correctional facility regardless of the type of vaccine received for the primary series. Booster doses are recommended to be given at least 5 months after the primary series for the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, and at least 2 months after the primary dose of J&J vaccine.

Additionally, due a recent change in guidance, the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines are now preferred over the Johnson and Johnson (J&J) vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19, including booster doses for individuals previously vaccinated with J&J. Individuals who request the J&J vaccine or are unable to receive the Moderna vaccine will still be able to receive the J&J vaccine.

While the J&J vaccine is still considered safe, this change was unanimously recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and endorsed by the CDC based on the latest evidence of vaccine effectiveness combined with vaccine safety and the rarity of adverse events.

This change is a result of a new analysis that shows that the risk of a blood clotting condition (thrombosis with thrombocytopenia – TTS) occurring after receiving the J&J vaccine is higher than previously presented (though it is still very rare - 3.8 cases per million doses given). In light of this new information, the CDC did a risk-benefit analysis showing that the mRNA vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer are safer and more effective than the J&J vaccine. However, the vaccine is still considered safe, and receiving any vaccine is better than being unvaccinated.

The DOC continues to offer and administer both primary series and booster doses on-site to interested patients. The process has 3 main steps: 1-Sign-up; 2-Attend a vaccine clinic; and 3-Get your primary series dose or booster. DOC Health Services recommends that all unvaccinated individuals sign up to receive a primary series of COVID-19 vaccine, and that all vaccinated individuals sign up for a booster dose. Fully vaccinated individuals who

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have received their booster dose have very strong protection against hospitalization or death from COVID-19 infection. Follow the steps below to receive your COVID-19 vaccine:

Step 1: Sign-up – To sign-up to receive your COVID-19 primary series or booster dose, please send a Health Services kite to your primary practitioner or Infection Prevention Nurse. This will help facilities identify the total need and eligibility, so that they can ensure appropriate vaccines are available and get clinics scheduled.

Step 2: Attend a facility clinic – Once you've completed step 1, attend the local facility vaccine clinic.

Step 3: Get your COVID-19 vaccine – Attend the local facility clinic, get your primary series or booster dose, and receive your vaccine card.

Please contact your local primary care practitioner or Infection Prevention Nurse if you have COVID-19 vaccine-related questions or concerns.

We appreciate your continued patience, flexibility, and assistance in helping reduce risks to you. Please continue to practice the best methods to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 - wash your hands frequently, physically distance, and wear appropriate personal protective equipment.