

COVID Vaccine Booster Shots

By now many of you have heard about a possible COVID vaccine booster dose. It is currently being evaluated by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The ACIP will make recommendations to the Food and Drug Administration which will have the final say in terms of authorization.

Why is a booster shot necessary?

CDC studies show that although the vaccines remain highly effective against hospitalizations and deaths, the protection they provide against infection with the virus has weakened in the past few months. The decline in effectiveness against infection may result from waning vaccine immunity, a lapse in precautions like wearing masks or the rise of the highly contagious Delta variant, experts said — or a combination of all three.

Who should get a booster shot and when?

Everyone who received the Pfizer or Moderna coronavirus vaccines should get a booster shot eight months after their second vaccine dose, federal health officials said. The F.D.A. has already authorized third doses of the Pfizer and Moderna coronavirus vaccines for some people with weakened immune systems such as people with HIV, those with organ transplants.

What if I got the Johnson and Johnson vaccine?

At this time, federal health officials are still waiting to see if boosters will be recommended for those who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine — they most likely will.

Can I get any type of COVID-19 vaccine for the third doses?

No. You should receive the same brand of vaccine you received for your first and second doses, either Moderna or Pfizer

Where can I get a booster shot?

Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center will be offering the booster shots for Moderna, which is pending FDA authorization. The Pfizer vaccine is available if your original vaccine was Pfizer and you meet the criteria. CTWC will post updates as they become available. Check with your provider if you qualify now.

If you have not received a COVID-19 vaccination they are still available at the Wellness Center. Call 360-273-5504 to schedule an appointment.

