

ADVISORY

FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, the New York City Commissioner of Health and Mental Hygiene (the “Department”) declared the existence of a public health emergency within the City to address the continuing threat posed by COVID-19 to the health and welfare of City residents, and such declaration and public health emergency continue to be in effect; and

WHEREAS, three COVID-19 vaccines have been authorized for use in the United States by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration: (1) Pfizer-BioNTech; (2) Moderna; and (3) Johnson & Johnson/Janssen, and these vaccines have been shown to be highly safe and effective in protecting people from severe COVID-19 illness, hospitalization and death, and millions of doses of vaccine have been and continue to be administered in the City and across the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, vaccination is the single most important public health intervention available for COVID-19 disease and COVID-19 vaccine information and doses have become more readily available for administration and all medically-eligible City residents age 5 and above are able to be vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) CDC has identified categories of individuals who should or may receive booster shots: if they are 18 years or older and received the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine series more than six (6) months ago, and are individuals who: (1) are ages 65 and older; or (2) live or work in high-risk settings including but not limited to long-term or congregate care settings, correctional facilities, or homeless shelters; or (3) have underlying medical conditions;¹ or if they received the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine at least two (2) months ago, and

WHEREAS, individuals can evaluate and assess their own level of risk exposure, taking into account factors that may include, but are not limited to: (1) working with the public or living with someone who works with the public; or (2) living or working with someone at high risk of severe impact of COVID, living in geographic areas that have been heavily impacted by COVID, or residing in high transmission areas; or (3) living in congregate settings, experiencing social inequity, or other risk conditions as assessed by the individual.

THEREFORE, YOU ARE HEREBY PROVIDED NOTICE THAT:

1. Health care providers should proactively offer booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine to individuals who meet any of the criteria below:
 - 65 years and older; or
 - Have an [underlying medical condition; or](#)
 - Received the J&J single dose vaccine at least 2 months ago.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>

2. Health care providers should not turn away an individual who, after evaluating and assessing their own level of risk exposure, requests a booster and meets any of the criteria below:
 - 18 years and older and 6 months since being fully vaccinated by Pfizer or Moderna; or
 - 18 years and older and 2 months since being fully vaccinated by Johnson & Johnson.

For purposes of this Advisory, “health care providers” include physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and pharmacists serving patients ages 18 and over in inpatient hospitals, emergency departments, outpatient clinics, primary care offices, vaccine clinics and pharmacies in accordance with guidance from the Department.