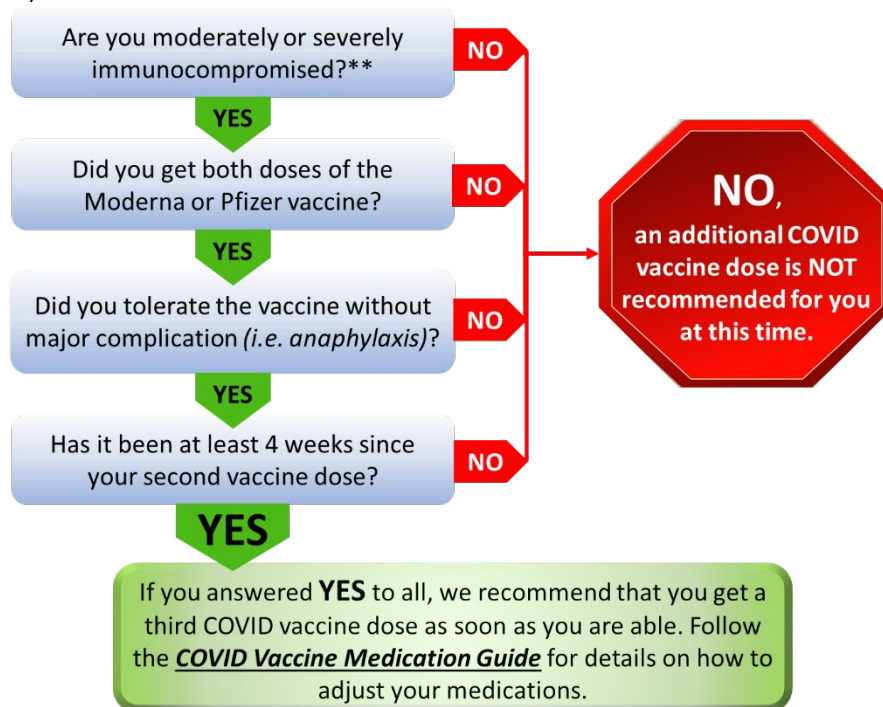


As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to threaten our community, new recommendations have been made to help protect a population of people who are perhaps the most vulnerable to the debilitating and often deadly consequences of COVID-19 infection: the immunocompromised. The FDA and CDC made recommendations during second week in August 2021 for an additional dose of the COVID-19 vaccine for certain people. Recommendations along with CDC recommendations are summarized below:

- All patients, ESPECIALLY those who are immunocompromised, are encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine unless you have had prior SEVERE response to vaccines in the past. At this point, millions of Americans have received the vaccines and they have proven to be safe and effective. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html>)
- If you are a moderately or severely immunocompromised patient who received both doses of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, you may benefit from a third dose to make sure that you are adequately protected.
- As of 8/16/21, The CDC does not recommend an additional shot or “booster” for other populations.



****Am I moderately or severely immunocompromised?**

- ✓ **This includes** patients with illnesses like systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), rheumatoid arthritis (RA), ankylosing spondylitis, polymyositis, and polymyalgia rheumatica **AND** that are treated with prednisone at over 20 mg daily, methotrexate, azathioprine or biologic therapies.
- ✗ **This does NOT include** patients on NSAIDS only (i.e. meloxicam, Celebrex, diclofenac), hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil) only, or diagnosed with fibromyalgia, osteoporosis, or osteoarthritis.

You can receive the vaccine from any current distributor or search [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find a location near you. You do not need a doctor’s note but will just state that you are “moderately to severely immunocompromised.”

Please see the [COVID Vaccine Medication Guide](#) on our website for directions on how to modify your treatment schedules before or after the vaccine. If you have more specific questions regarding your personal care plan, please feel free to schedule a visit with our providers. We are happy to help you get the answers you need!

For additional information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html>