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# Petersburg Medical Center

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### VACCINE UPDATE

**COVID-19 Vaccine:** Now is the time! If you have not received any vaccine for COVID-19 and have questions about receiving the vaccine, contact your health care provider for guidance. All three vaccines are currently available at PMC. Public Health (907-772-4611) offers Pfizer and Rexall Pharmacy (907-772-3265) has a limited supply of Janssen (J&J). You may schedule an appointment for any COVID-19 vaccine by calling 907-772-5788 and select option 4 for vaccine.

**Third Dose:** Persons who have underlying medical conditions that cause them to have weakened immune systems are at significant risk for serious covid infections. Since the immune system may be impacted by certain medications or diseases, a three-dose series of an mRNA vaccine is now approved. The current recommendation is

- Receive the same type of vaccine initially given.
- The third dose must be given at least 28 days after the second mRNA dose.
- Persons who received a Janssen (J&J) are not approved for a second dose of vaccine at this time.

The following medical conditions are cause for receiving the third dose of mRNA:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response

For more information visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html>

**Booster Dose:** The mRNA vaccines are showing declining effectiveness after eight months. The FDA will very likely update the EUA for Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to encourage a booster dose eight months after the second dose. Petersburg Medical Center is planning to repeat vaccination points of dispense clinics later this year. Stay tuned for this information.

What is the difference? People who are immunocompromised may not develop the same immune response level after vaccination as others. A third dose is recommended for those individual to help them build the same level of immunity as people who are not immunocompromised.

A booster shot is recommended as protection from the vaccine wanes over time. This is also why Tetanus booster shots are given every 10 years.

If you find yourself outside of Petersburg and need to get a vaccine (any dose), send a text to 438829 and put the zip code for your location in the body of the text.

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