

# COVID-19 Vaccine Update

October 15, 2021 - From RFGH Pharmacy Director, Lisa Caswell

## FDA Advisory Panel Votes in Favor of Boosters for Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine in Certain Populations

On October 14, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) voted unanimously in support of a booster dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for use under Emergency Use Authorization.

This advisory panel ruling is just the first step in the approval process. The full FDA must accept their recommendation, and then the CDC's Advisory Council on Immunization Practices (ACIP) must make a final recommendation.

*The earliest this will happen is October 20th.*

VRBPAC recommends a Moderna booster that is half the dosage of the primary two-dose series, given at least 6 months after completion of the primary series for:

- Patients 65 years of age and older
- Patients 18 - 64 years of age at high risk of severe COVID-19
- Patients 18 - 64 years of age whose frequent institutional or occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2 puts them at high risk of serious complications of COVID-19, including severe COVID-19

VRBPAC will consider Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 booster application on Friday, October 15. The discussions presented during the VRBPAC meetings are expected to inform the FDA's final decision on booster dose authorizations for Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, and will be considered by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices scheduled to meet October 20-21.

**RFGH will provide more updates as information becomes available and once we are able to begin scheduling booster shots for these vaccines if they are ultimately approved.**

  
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