

October 8th, 2021



Out of abundance of caution, the Medical Center is screening all guests before providing entrance into the facility. To ensure our team is able to address your needs; we kindly ask to be as forthcoming as possible regarding your visit and provide all symptoms you may be experiencing.

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot: Call the Medical Center to schedule your Booster Shot.

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

COVID-19 Vaccine booster shots are available for the following Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine recipients who completed their initial series at least 6 months ago:

- 65 years and older
- 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- 18+ who work in high-risk settings
- 18+ who live in high-risk settings

CDC Holiday Guidelines Updates:

Regardless of vaccination status, the CDC advises holding virtual holiday soirees in which revelers celebrate with family and friends via video chat. Holidaymakers are encouraged to throw a “virtual dance party and collaborate with friends and family on a playlist,” per the guidelines. The CDC suggests that people take gifts and food to “family, friends and neighbors in a way that does not involve contact with others, such as leaving them at the door

Celebrating In-Person With People Outside Your Household

Of course, sometimes brick-and-mortar shindigs are inevitable. In this event, hosts should hold the festivities outdoors and make sure that guests stand 6 feet apart. If gathering indoors, revelers should ensure there is plenty of fresh air by opening windows and doors and even positioning a fan in one of the open windows to blow the air out. They should also adhere to CDC mask guidelines, which stipulate that unvaccinated individuals aged 2 or older wear a face covering while inside.

People generally don’t need to don PPE outdoors, per the guidelines. However, in areas with a high COVID risk, the CDC recommends masking up in crowded outside spaces and while engaging in close

contact activities with those who didn't receive a jab. In general, the org advises having "conversations ahead of time to understand expectations for celebrating together."

Holiday Travel

Don't throw away your shot at a holiday trip just yet. Those with Yuletide wanderlust are advised to forgo flying until fully vaccinated. Meanwhile, the CDC recommends that unvaxxed holiday travelers — or those with children under 12 — choose alternative ways to reach their destination, such as driving. Travelers are urged to consult the CDC's travel guidelines before embarking on a holiday getaway. The guidelines currently only apply to Halloween and Turkey Day, as experts don't yet know what the pandemic landscape will look like come Christmastime. "It's just too soon to tell." Dr. Anthony Fauci, the White House's chief medical adviser, told "Face the Nation" Sunday. "We've just gotta concentrate on continuing to get those numbers down and not try to jump ahead by weeks or months and say what we're gonna do at a particular time."

And while the infectious disease expert says the US is "turning the corner" in the latest wave of the COVID-19 pandemic — he warned that case numbers could start climbing again if more people don't get vaccinated.

FLU SEASON: What's New for 2021-2022

A few things are different for the 2021-2022 influenza (flu) season, including:

- Annual flu vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months and older, with [few exceptions](#).
- The [composition of flu vaccines](#) has been updated.
- All flu vaccines will be quadrivalent (four component), meaning designed to protect against four different flu viruses. For more information: [Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine | CDC](#).
- Licensure on one flu vaccine has changed. Flucelvax Quadrivalent is now approved for people 2 years and older.
- Flu vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines can be given at [the same time](#).
- More detailed guidance about the recommended timing of flu vaccination for some groups of people is available.
- Guidance concerning contraindications and precautions for the use of two flu vaccines – Flucevax Quadrivalent and Flublok Quadrivalent – were updated.

In Other News:

Pfizer released details of a Phase 2/3 trial that showed its Covid-19 vaccine was safe and generated a "robust" antibody response in children ages 5 to 11. The trial included 2,268 participants ages 5 to 11 and used a two-dose regimen of the vaccine administered 21 days apart. This trial used a 10-microgram dose -- smaller than the 30-microgram dose that has been used for those 12 and older. In anticipation of the request, the FDA last week scheduled a meeting of its Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee to discuss the vaccine in children ages 5 to 11 on October 26. If the FDA OKs it, a panel of CDC vaccine advisers will meet to consider whether to recommend its use.

For those interested in watching the committee discussion on the approval of Pfizer for children 5 -11 years of age; I have included the link below. This presentation is scheduled for October 26th, 2021.

<https://www.fda.gov/advisory-committees/advisory-committee-calendar/vaccines-and-related-biological-products-advisory-committee-october-26-2021-meeting-announcement>

The links below provides an abundance of tracking information you may find of interest:

- <https://usafacts.org/visualizations/covid-vaccine-tracker-states/state/florida>
- <https://www.mayoclinic.org/coronavirus-covid-19/vaccine-tracker>
- <https://www.axios.com/pfizer-covid-vaccine-boosters-fda-approval-69ff9870-5e9a-4099-98ff-24085091cc7f.html>
- <https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2020/health/coronavirus-questions-answers/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2021-2022.htm>

RESOURCE

Additional information, links to community and local resources, MCOR's updated COVID-19 tracking grid and more is available at:

WWW.MCOR.ORG