



# Panhandle Health District

*Healthy People in Healthy Communities*

**Public Health**

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Panhandle Health District**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **PHD supports recommendation for third dose of COVID-19 vaccine for those with weakened immune systems**

**PANHANDLE HEALTH DISTRICT** – A third dose of the **Pfizer or Moderna (mRNA)** COVID-19 vaccine has been [authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) and [recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) for those with weakened immune systems.

Panhandle Health District (PHD) encourages those with weakened immune systems who have already received two doses of one of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer or Moderna) to follow the recommendation and get an extra dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after their second dose.

Currently, CDC is recommending that [moderately to severely immunocompromised](#) people receive an additional dose. This includes people who have:

- 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

People should talk to their healthcare provider about their medical condition, and whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for them. A patient's clinical team is best positioned to

determine the degree of immune compromise and appropriate timing of vaccination. The CDC has issued guidance for healthcare providers and the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose for immunocompromised patients does not require a physician order, vaccine eligibility will be on the “honor” system/ “self-attestation”.

**PHD will request that individuals “self-attest” that they have one of the above immunocompromising conditions to receive their third dose. The health district also asks that individuals bring proof of their prior vaccination to their third dose appointment.**

Those with the above-mentioned conditions can schedule their third dose appointment through PHD or other [participating providers](#) in the area. Call the PHD COVID-19 hotline to schedule your appointment at 877-415-5225.

Hotline hours of operation are Monday -Friday 9am-12pm and 1pm-4pm.

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**Panhandle Health District** provides over 40 different public health programs to families, individuals and organizations in northern Idaho. From food and drinking water safety to health education and disease control, public health services are critical to ensure our community is a safe and healthy place to live, work and play.

The PHD team is made up of nurses, nutritionists, environmental health specialists, health educators and many other dedicated professionals with a common goal to deliver vital public health services.

Panhandle Health District is one of seven health districts in the state of Idaho.