

September 24, 2021

To our patients,

The ACIP committee of the CDC met yesterday, 9/23/21, to review and approve the FDA booster authorization for the Pfizer Covid vaccine. Last evening, the Director of the CDC, Rochelle Walensky, MD, M.P.H amended that authorization to include healthcare workers and those in high risk occupations. This morning the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup (The final authority on what can be given in Washington State) met and approved the CDC guidelines as amended! It's been a long, tortuous and confusing road but here are the recommendations for Pfizer Booster vaccine:

- People 65 years and older **should** receive a booster shot of Pfizer vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer primary series.
- Residents in long-term care settings **should** receive a booster shot of Pfizer vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer primary series.
- People aged 50 to 64 with certain underlying medical conditions **should** receive a booster shot of Pfizer vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer primary series.
- People 18 to 49 who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 due to certain underlying medical conditions **may** receive a booster shot of Pfizer vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.
- People aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting **may** receive a booster shot of Pfizer vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

As you can see, there is some ambiguity in bullet points 3 & 4 as to “certain underlying medical conditions.” Some of the conditions likely to be included in this category may include Diabetes, steroid use, Congestive Heart Failure, Chronic kidney disease, etc. We will be studying the data over the next week to issue further guidance.

At this point, those eligible can pursue a booster vaccine through their pharmacy or other sites identified on the King County Public Health website. Please be sure to note that this is for those who received the Pfizer vaccine ONLY. Due to storage and handling requirements, we will not be providing Pfizer vaccine through the clinic. The data for Moderna and Johnson & Johnson will be coming out over the next couple of months. For those who received those vaccines, hold on for now; your day is coming!

We will continue to update you as more information is available. We realize that our emails are a little slower than the 24 hour news cycle and social media, but we hope you can rely on us for

reliable information that has been researched, vetted and consistent with optimal medical practice.

As always, we wish you continued good health.

Drs. Mills and Kaner.