



NEWS RELEASE. FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCCHD offering Pfizer boosters beginning Monday

(Oklahoma City) - Starting Monday, all OCCHD public health clinics will offer Pfizer COVID-19 booster doses to anyone 18 years of age and older who received their second dose of Pfizer vaccine six months ago or longer.

The booster is recommended for anyone age 65 and older or living at a long term care facility. Boosters are also recommended for anyone age 50 and older with underlying health conditions. People age 18 years old to 49 years old are encouraged to get a booster if they have an underlying health condition or could have an increase risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting.

Some of the underlying medical conditions discussed by the CDC include cancer, chronic kidney disease, obesity, COPD, diabetes or a heart condition. Pregnant women and frequent smokers qualify for a booster dose as well if it's been six months since they had their second dose.

OCCHD will not ask anyone to show documentation of these conditions or occupation. In Oklahoma County, 180,000 people could qualify for a booster if they're interested in one.

The qualifying factor for a Pfizer booster is patients must have received their second dose of Pfizer vaccine at least six months ago and they will receive a third dose of Pfizer.

CDC's ACIP pointed out many times during its meeting that full vaccination will remain as two doses for the two-dose Pfizer vaccine, explaining that the new regulations do not mean a third dose is required.

In its discussion, ACIP was also cautious about encouraging boosters for anyone younger than 50 years old because of a concern for the rare occurrence of myocarditis, especially in young men. Myocarditis is an inflammation of the heart muscle, which can reduce the heart's ability to pump and cause rapid or abnormal heart rhythms.

People interested in getting a booster can also get the vaccination at many local pharmacies. Several locations are listed at VaxOKC.com. Unlike the initial vaccination rollout in January, there are more than 400 providers in Oklahoma County offering COVID-19 vaccinations. In the U.S., 70% of recent vaccinations have been administered at pharmacies.

People wanting a booster on Monday at the NE clinic can sign up for an appointment **here.** On Tuesdays to Fridays, they can call 405-419-4200 for an appointment at NE Health Clinic, 2700 NE 63rd. To help meet the demand for boosters, the NE clinic will not offer its regular services on Mondays until Oct. 29, though this date could change.

Residents needing an appointment at OCCHD's Southern Oaks Clinic, 6728 S Hudson Ave., can call 405-419-4119 or book an appointment for Wednesdays **here**. To help meet the demand for boosters, the Southern Oaks clinic will not offer its regular services on Wednesdays until Oct. 29.

Patients wanting an appointment at the OCCHD's West clinic, 4330 NW 10th St., should call 405-419-4150.

Walk-ins are welcome at all clinics, though appointments are preferred. All clinics are on the Embark bus line. Homebound residents needing a booster dose can call the OCCHD hotline at 405-425-4489.

To date, 65% of eligible Oklahoma County residents are fully vaccinated, though more than 70,000 people still need a second dose.