

What Patients Need to Know: COVID-19 Boosters

- **When will boosters be available?**

We are offering booster shots to immunocompromised patients at all five Roper St. Francis Express Cares. These boosters are available to moderately to severely immunocompromised patients who received their second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine more than 28 days ago. These patients will need to present their vaccine card and sign a self-attestation form that confirms they are immunocompromised.

- **When will boosters be available to a broader population?**

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a statement on Aug. 18, 2021 that read in part, "We have developed a plan to begin offering these booster shots this fall subject to FDA conducting an independent evaluation and determination of the safety and effectiveness of a third dose of the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines and CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issuing booster dose recommendations based on a thorough review of the evidence. We are prepared to offer booster shots for all Americans beginning the week of September 20 and starting eight months after an individual's second dose."

Roper St. Francis Healthcare is making plans to provide boosters if the shots are approved. More information will be shared with patients' via their MyHealth patient portal in the coming weeks.

- **Can I sign up for a booster shot?**

We do not have a waiting list or sign up process yet for the booster shot. If we create such a list, more information will be shared on our website, RSFH.com, as well as through your patient portal account.

- **Do I need a booster?**

The CDC has said if the booster shots are approved, they would be available to all Americans beginning Sept. 20. You would become eligible when it has been eight months since your second dose.

Roper St. Francis Healthcare would encourage all Lowcountry residents to follow the CDC guidance.

- **Does your booster shot have to be the same as your initial shot?**

For people who received either Pfizer or Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine series, a third dose of the same mRNA vaccine should be used. A person should not receive more than three mRNA vaccine doses. If the mRNA vaccine product given for the first two doses is not available or is unknown, either mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product may be administered.

- **Will people who received Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine need a booster shot?**

It is likely that people who received a J&J COVID-19 vaccine will need a booster dose. Because the J&J vaccine wasn't given in the United States until 70 days after the first mRNA vaccine doses (Pfizer and Moderna), the data needed to make this decision isn't available yet.