UPDATE! COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Eligibility

On Friday, February 11th, the CDC updated its guidance for COVID-19 vaccination for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised:

- Immunocompromised persons who have completed a primary series of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) are recommended to receive an mRNA booster dose 3 months (instead of 5 months) after the last primary dose.
- Immunocompromised persons who have received a single J&J COVID-19 vaccine should receive one additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine and one booster dose (preferably mRNA) for a total of 3 vaccine doses.

The CDC also clarified that immunocompromised persons who have completed their primary series of 3 mRNA doses should receive an mRNA vaccine booster dose—to make a total of 4 doses.

Also, for those who previously received passive COVID-19 antibody products, the CDC no longer recommends a waiting period prior to COVID-19 vaccination.

It is recommended that healthcare providers proactively outreach to all patients who are eligible for a booster with information about their eligibility, locations for receiving booster doses, and instructions for how to make an appointment/walk-in.

In addition, providers should not miss any opportunity to vaccinate the unvaccinated or provide boosters, by offering vaccine during routine or nonroutine visits to medical offices, clinics, pharmacies, and hospitals. Note that AFL 21-20.1 recommends that GACHs and APHs offer COVID-19 vaccinations and booster doses to eligible individuals prior to discharge.

Vaccines and COVID-19 testing: Diagnostic tests, such as PCR and antigen, are NOT affected by vaccination. Providers should continue to follow testing recommendations in patients with COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of how recently they received a dose of COVID-19 vaccine.