



Town of New Castle, NH
Settled 1623
Incorporated 1693

COVID Update September 3, 2021

All NH counties are at “high transmission” levels for COVID.

1) **Please be careful.**

COVID rates are up nationally and locally, and local NH hospitals are overflowing. You do not want to be a patient there in the midst of how busy they are.

Whether or not you are vaccinated it is recommended that you wear masks indoors. Unvaccinated people are recommended not to travel this weekend and to wear masks/avoid crowded situations. This includes children under the age of 12 who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated. Outdoor activities are much safer than indoors and family picnics and sports are fine.

2) **FDA approval:**

As you likely know, the FDA did give full approval to the Pfizer COVID vaccine last month. Moderna has also applied for full approval, and Johnson & Johnson has said it hopes to apply later in the year.

3) **Vaccine Boosters:**

Currently though some are advocating for a 3rd vaccine shot of Moderna or Pfizer vaccine after between 5 and 8 months for all people who have had 2 shots. There has not been consensus of this and the FDA advisory board did not decide to recommend this at this point when they met on 8/30/21. Thus, unless you fall into the classifications below, the third shot is not currently an option.

4) **WMUR 8/29/21-Third vaccine shot (different from a booster shot):**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) now recommends a 3rd dose for people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised and received the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines. Immunocompromised means that the immune system (body's defense system against infection) is weakened. **This 3rd dose is not a booster. It is considered part of the primary vaccine series.**

This includes people who have:

- Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies
- Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy

- Receipt of CAR-T-cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., ≥ 20 mg prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, tumor-necrosis (TNF) blockers, and other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory.
- The 3rd dose should be given at least 28 days after the 2nd dose
- You do not need a doctor's note to get the 3rd dose. You will need to attest to being immunocompromised.
- The CDC recommends that if possible you get the same vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) for your 3rd dose as you have for the first two. But you may also receive the other vaccine if that is what is available.
- What we don't know at this time is whether people who are immunocompromised who received the Janssen vaccine (Johnson & Johnson) have an improved immune response following an additional dose of the same vaccine.

An additional mRNA dose following an initial vaccine series is given to people who may not have had a strong enough immune response after receiving the initial vaccine series. A booster dose is a supplemental dose given to groups whose immune response has weakened over time. No booster doses are recommended at this time. This may change as more information becomes available.

People who are immunocompromised are more likely to transmit the virus that causes COVID-19 to household contacts. Also, small studies suggest that fully vaccinated immunocompromised people accounted for a large proportion (40–44%) of hospitalized breakthrough cases. Lastly, the Delta variant is surging, and the number of people with COVID-19 is increasing in the United States.

5) Ivermectin: The CDC issued a health advisory recently warning doctors and the public about the "rapid increase" in prescriptions for the anti-parasitic drug Ivermectin. Calls to poison control centers about the drug have increased threefold compared to the number of similar calls before the pandemic, the CDC said.

Article giving further details: Rapid Increase in Ivermectin Prescriptions and Reports of Severe Illness Associated with Use of Products Containing Ivermectin to Prevent or Treat COVID-19 <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/han00449.asp>

6) Resources:

A) Website for where to get a vaccine:

<https://www.vaccines.gov/>



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B) NH COVID testing site options:

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid-testing-options.pdf>

C) More details of CDC latest mask guidance:

<https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/cdcs-latest-mask-guidance-explainer-your-patients>

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