

Update on Booster Vaccines

August 25, 2021

The U.S. will likely offer booster shots for fully vaccinated Americans **six months** after their last COVID-19 vaccine was administered, instead of the eight-month gap that had been previously announced, a source familiar with the planning process told *The Wall Street Journal* Aug. 25.

The U.S. [said](#) Aug. 18 it is prepared to offer booster shots for all Americans who received two doses of Pfizer or Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine beginning the week of Sept. 20 and starting eight months after an individual's second dose.

HHS said its plan is **contingent upon FDA approval for COVID-19 boosters**, which hasn't been granted yet. The agency [amended the emergency use authorizations](#) for Pfizer's and Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines Aug. 12, allowing for a third dose in immunocompromised people, but not yet for the rest of the population.

The day after HHS announced its booster plan, *Bloomberg* reported the CDC had [pushed back](#) its advisory panel meeting to discuss COVID-19 booster shots for the general population by one week, as medical professionals are split over whether the shots are necessary.

The FDA and CDC are reviewing booster data from vaccine makers and other countries, and this data is based on boosters being administered at six months after full vaccination, the source told *The Wall Street Journal*.

The source also said approval for boosters manufactured by Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson is expected in mid-September

States ranked by COVID-19 hospitalization rates: percent increase over the last 2 weeks.

Note: the number of infections per 100,000 is a good indicator of how well la particular state is doing in terms of vaccination, social distancing, and safe practices.

States highlighted in blue are averaging ≤ 15 hospitalizations per 100,000 people

States highlighted in yellow are averaging > 25 hospitalizations per 100,000 people

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|---|--|
| 1. South Dakota
14-day change: 103 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 7 | 2. New Hampshire
14-day change: 113 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 15 |
| 3. North Dakota
14-day change: 87 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 16 | 4. Maine
14-day change: 80 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 9 |
| 5. West Virginia
14-day change: 74 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 28 | 6. Hawaii
14-day change: 71 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 28 |

7. **Pennsylvania**
14-day change: 66 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: **13**
9. **South Carolina**
14-day change: 64 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: **39**
11. **Kentucky**
14-day change: 61 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: **45**
13. Virginia
14-day change: 61 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 16
15. **Wisconsin**
14-day change: 60 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: **15**
17. **North Carolina**
14-day change: 59 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: **29**
19. **Massachusetts**
14-day change: 55 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: **7**
21. **Minnesota**
14-day change: 53 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: **10**
23. **Georgia**
14-day change: 50 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: **54**
25. **Michigan**
14-day change: 48 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: **10**
27. Washington
14-day change: 46 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 19
29. **New Jersey**
14-day change: 43 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: **11**
31. Illinois
14-day change: 39 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 16
33. **Maryland**
14-day change: 37 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: **14**
8. District of Columbia
14-day change: 65 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 19
10. Delaware
14-day change: 63 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 20
12. New Mexico
14-day change: 61 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 20
14. Ohio
14-day change: 60 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 19
16. Idaho
14-day change: 59 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 24
18. **Connecticut**
14-day change: 56 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: **11**
20. Wyoming
14-day change: 55 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 25
22. **Vermont**
14-day change: 52 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: **4**
24. **Indiana**
14-day change: 49 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: **26**
26. Nebraska
14-day change: 47 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 16
28. Oregon
14-day change: 44 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 23
30. **Rhode Island**
14-day change: 42 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: **10**
32. Montana
14-day change: 38 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 21
34. **Colorado**
14-day change: 36 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: **12**

35. Iowa
14-day change: 35 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 16

37. California
14-day change: 31 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 21

39. Alabama
14-day change: 30 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 60

41. Oklahoma
14-day change: 26 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 40

43. Tennessee
14-day change: 23 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 33

45. Alaska
14-day change: 14 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 18

47. Utah
14-day change: 9 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 13

49. Missouri
14-day change: 8 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 40

51. Nevada
14-day change: 1 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 42

36. Arizona
14-day change: 34 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 27

38. Texas
14-day change: 31 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 46

40. New York State
14-day change: 30 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 11

42. Kansas
14-day change: 25 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 26

44. Florida
14-day change: 17 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 80

46. Mississippi
14-day change: 14 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 56

48. Louisiana
14-day change: 8 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 57

50. Arkansas
14-day change: 5 percent increase
Hospitalizations per 100,000 people: 46

***Consider: states with higher hospitalization rates are the states is already experiencing critical hospital bed shortages, or are at risk to develop shortages if the infection rate continues to rise. This may be worth considering if you are planning to travel out of state in the next several months.*