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For Immediate Release  
8-26-2021  
10:00 am

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Public Information Officer

### **Health Department Offering Additional Dose of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine for Immunocompromised Individuals**

Today, Thursday August 26, 2021, during the normal COVID-19 vaccination clinic, the Van Wert County General Health District will begin offering an additional dose of messenger RNA (mRNA) COVID-19 vaccine for **immunocompromised individuals ONLY**. The COVID-19 vaccination clinic is held 2-4 pm every Thursday. Please do not call for an appointment, as the clinic is walk-in only. Those individuals wanting to receive the additional dose must:

- Meet the eligibility requirements for immunocompromised individuals as listed below;
- Be able to show proof of vaccination with your vaccination card or other record;
- Have received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least 28 days ago;

The eligible population is further defined by the CDC to include:

- Individuals undergoing active treatment for cancer (solid tumor and hematologic malignancies).
- Individuals who have received a solid-organ transplant and are taking immunosuppressive therapy.
- Individuals who have received a CAR-T-cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within two years of transplant or taking immunosuppression therapy).
- Individuals with moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome).
- Individuals with advanced or untreated HIV infection.
- Individuals undergoing active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., ≥20mg 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 purpose of this additional dose is to strengthen the immune response when the initial immune response to the primary two-dose vaccine series is likely to be insufficient, according to the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Other fully vaccinated individuals do not need an additional vaccine dose at this time.

At this time, an additional dose is not recommended after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson (Janssen vaccine).

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*"Our mission is to promote and to protect the health and well-being of the community!"*