

NEWS BRIEF

Provided by: National Insurance Services

FDA Panel Recommends Moderna Booster Shot for Vulnerable Populations

On Thursday, Oct. 14, 2021, an independent panel of vaccine experts recommended Moderna booster shots for individuals at a high risk of contracting COVID-19.

High-risk individuals include people over the age of 65, those with occupational exposure to COVID-19 and younger adults with health issues.

The nonbinding panel, which advises the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), encouraged half-dose Moderna vaccine booster shots for those who previously received that vaccine. The FDA typically follows the endorsement guidance of the panel, recently making the same recommendation regarding the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

The panel stressed that there is no current evidence to suggest that most Americans need a booster shot at this time. This latest recommendation is for vulnerable populations only.

What's Next?

The panel's recommendation is nonbinding, but the FDA usually follows its determination. High-risk individuals who received either a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine in the past can consider getting a booster of the same brand as their previous two-dose series.

As the panel noted, average Americans do not need to seek out boosters at this time. President Joe Biden's administration has hinted at giving everyone booster shots, but such plans have yet to materialize.

Additionally, the FDA has only reviewed booster shots for the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines. A panel is expected to meet soon regarding the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and its potential booster.

Individuals should continue to monitor the FDA for updates. Those who received a Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccination in the past should stay tuned for developments regarding its booster.

To learn more about booster eligibility and vaccines in general, contact your health care provider.

