

COVID-19 Vaccines – CDC’s ACIP Discusses Vaccine Boosters (Day 1)

- On September 22, 2021 the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s \(CDC’s\) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\) met](#) for the first of two days of deliberation about booster doses of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.
- ACIP recommendations are coordinated with the FDA and at the time of the ACIP meeting, the FDA had not issued a decision on authorizing booster doses of Comirnaty. The FDA’s Advisory Committee had mixed opinions on the booster dose. Last week, they voted against full approval but advocated for expanded use under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) in vulnerable individuals including individuals 65 years of age and older.
- Without an FDA approval to consider, the ACIP today briefly reviewed the data supporting booster doses of Comirnaty, data on vaccine effectiveness, and other elements of immunity connected to the pandemic. Key discussion points included:
 - Vaccine-based immunity involves two components, antibody generation and long-term immunity facilitated by memory B and T cells.
 - Older individuals start with lower levels of anti-COVID-19 antibodies and may have less robust memory response for long-term immunity. Thus, older individuals have a higher risk for breakthrough COVID-19 infections.
 - Epidemiological studies indicate reductions in vaccine efficacy in individuals 65 years and older, especially during the recent delta variant surge in July and August.
 - Among adults < 65 years of age, vaccines remain effective in preventing hospitalization and severe disease.
 - Among adults 65 years and older, vaccine effectiveness against infection has declined, with smaller declines observed in the vaccine effectiveness against hospitalizations.
 - No data exists on mixing and matching of Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen vaccines. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) is studying this question, but data is not yet available.
- The ACIP did not make any recommendations.
- Day 2 of the ACIP meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2021 when they will discuss any potential FDA actions involving Comirnaty. The OptumRx Pipeline Team plans to attend this meeting and will provide an update after that meeting.