



Media Information:

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COVID-19 booster shots available in Yellowstone County

Billings, MT – Booster shots are now available to many adults who had their second dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at least six months ago.

Booster shots should be available from the pharmacies and clinics that are providing first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine. The dosage the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends for Pfizer boosters is the same as for the first two doses.

RiverStone Health, Yellowstone County’s public health agency, will follow CDC guidance in offering booster shots to certain people who received their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine at least six months earlier. The CDC said:

- People 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings **should** receive a booster.
- People aged 50–64 years with underlying medical conditions **should** receive a booster. Medical conditions that increase an individual’s risk of serious COVID-19 illness include cancer, organ transplant, immune-compromising conditions, type 1 and type 2 diabetes, pregnancy, obesity, heart disease, HIV, kidney disease, sickle cell anemia, cigarette smoking (current and former) and lung disease. For a more detailed list, go to [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) and search for “underlying conditions”.
- People aged 18–49 with underlying medical conditions **may** receive a booster shot, based on their individual benefits and risks.
- People aged 18-64 who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting **may** receive a booster shot, based on their individual benefits and risks.

“As we start giving booster shots, we will continue to provide COVID-19 vaccines to people who aren’t yet fully vaccinated,” said John Felton, Yellowstone County health officer and RiverStone Health president and CEO. “Getting everyone age 12 and older vaccinated is crucial to slowing the virus spread in Yellowstone County.”

326 COVID-19 deaths

On Friday, two more Yellowstone County deaths due to COVID-19 related illness were reported. Both women passed away Thursday in Billings hospitals. One was in her 80s, had been fully vaccinated and had underlying medical conditions. The other victim was in her 70s, wasn't fully vaccinated and had underlying medical conditions. Their deaths bring the county's pandemic toll to 326 lives lost since April 2020.

Moderna and J&J

The CDC booster recommendation is only for people who previously received the Pfizer vaccine. The agency said it will make recommendations on booster doses for people who have received the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines as soon as research data on those products becomes available.

Teens and children

The CDC hasn't recommended vaccine booster doses for people under age 18. People age 12-17 are still eligible for two doses of Pfizer vaccine given three weeks apart. At this time, no vaccine is approved for children under age 12.

Free, walk-in clinics

RiverStone Health encourages people wanting booster shots to attend our free, walk-in COVID-19 vaccine clinics. These clinics also will offer first- and second-doses of Pfizer to people age 12 and older:

- Wednesday, Sept. 29, noon-2 p.m., Billings Public Library Community Room.
- Thursday, Sept. 30, 2-6 p.m. RiverStone Health Clinic, Main Street in Worden.
- Oct. 5, noon-2 p.m., Billings Public Library Community Room.
- Oct. 7, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Healthy By Design Gardeners' Market, South Park.
- Oct. 9, 9 a.m.-noon, HarvestFest, downtown Billings.
- Oct. 12, noon-2 p.m., Billings Public Library Community Room.
- Oct. 14, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., RiverStone Health, 123 S. 27th St., in the four-story building.
- Oct. 20, noon-2 p.m. Billings Public Library Community Room.
- Oct. 27, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., Billings Public Library Community Room.

A limited number of vaccination appointments are available from the RiverStone Health Immunization Clinic, phone **406.247.3382**. More vaccination information is posted at covid.riverstonehealth.org.

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