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**Contact:** Michelle La France, Manager of Public Relations and Community Outreach  
O (860) 928-6541, Ext. 7132 | C (401) 302-8564 | [mfracnce@daykimball.org](mailto:mfracnce@daykimball.org)

### **FDA Approves First COVID-19 Vaccines** *Day Kimball Healthcare Plans For Administering Booster Doses*

PUTNAM, CONN. (Aug. 26, 2021) – On Monday, August 23, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine has been known as the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, and will now be marketed as Comirnaty, for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older. The vaccine also continues to be available under emergency use authorization (EUA), including for individuals 12 through 15 years of age and for the administration of a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals.

“While only the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine is fully approved at this juncture, all paperwork and approval application details have been completed and submitted to the FDA for full approval of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, which will be marketed as Spikevax,” said John Graham, chief medical officer and vice president medical affairs and quality, Day Kimball Healthcare. “It is anticipated that the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine will receive comparable approval from the FDA,” Graham said.

Additionally, federal health officials and medical experts recently announced that COVID-19 booster shots will be available to all American adults starting September 20. The plan, outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other top public health officials, calls for a booster shot eight months after receiving the second dose of either a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna mRNA vaccination. The current recommendations do not apply to Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine. For now, booster shots are being advised for the mRNA vaccines only.

“Day Kimball’s COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force is reviewing this guidance and formulating a plan for administering third doses to our healthcare workers and the public,” said Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Healthcare. “Eligible individuals will be able to receive COVID-19 booster shots at Day Kimball Hospital, and at Day Kimball Medical Group adult primary care locations in Putnam, Plainfield, Danielson and Dayville,” Kramer said.

“DKH’s booster vaccine distribution plan is being developed in accordance with guidelines from the CDC, the FDA, and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH),” said John O’Keefe, chief nursing officer and vice president patient services, Day Kimball Healthcare. “A schedule of Day Kimball’s booster vaccination clinics is forthcoming,” O’Keefe said.

In the meantime, the CDC currently recommends that certain individuals – those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised – receive a third dose now. This includes people who:

- Are receiving active cancer treatment
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system

- Received a stem cell transplant within the last two years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Have advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Are in active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress the immune response
- Have moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency

Individuals who meet any of the above criteria, and for those who have further questions regarding their eligibility for a booster vaccine now, should contact their healthcare provider.

The current recommendation is that individuals who received the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine series should receive the same mRNA vaccine for the third dose. A person should not receive more than three mRNA vaccine doses. If the mRNA vaccine product given for the first two doses is not available or is unknown, either mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product may be administered.

“DKH continues to engage with our local, state and federal officials in discussions around providing third doses to eligible individuals 8 months after their second shot was received,” Kramer added. “Day Kimball looks forward to providing access to booster shots to our healthcare workers and the general public in the weeks and months ahead.”

For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19 vaccination distribution plans in Connecticut, call 2-1-1, the CT State Hotline for information or visit [ct.gov/covidvaccine](https://ct.gov/covidvaccine). Local information is available on the Northeast District Department of Health website at [nddh.org](https://nddh.org). For more information about Day Kimball Healthcare’s COVID-19 vaccine rollout visit [daykimball.org/coronavirus](https://daykimball.org/coronavirus).

#### **About Day Kimball Healthcare**

Day Kimball Healthcare is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare at Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare’s comprehensive network employs more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its website is [www.daykimball.org](https://www.daykimball.org).