

Smilow Update: August 16, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Additional COVID Vaccine Dose

On Thursday, August 12, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) amended the emergency use authorizations (EUAs) for both the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccines to allow for the use of an additional dose in certain immunocompromised individuals. This is as a result of medical studies suggesting a reduced antibody response after the usual two-dose vaccine primary series. Connecticut implemented the CDC recommendations on Saturday, August 14 to allow for individuals who are immunocompromised to receive a third dose of the vaccine.

- Additional information is available through a [CDC slide deck](#) highlighting “Clinical Considerations for Use of an Additional mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Dose After a Primary mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Series for Immunocompromised People.”
- Smilow Cancer Hospital is in support of patients who meet the criteria listed by the CDC receiving a 3rd dose of vaccine (as long as they did not experience anaphylaxis or other serious complication with prior doses). Additional guidance will be forthcoming.
- Self-scheduling for additional dose appointments will open soon at <https://covidvaccine.ynhh.org/>. If you or patients have questions about the vaccine or need help scheduling vaccination, please call 1-833-ASK-YNHH (275-9644) for assistance.
- Patients may also receive the third vaccine at sites outside the Yale system if available (at commercial pharmacies for example).
- Patients who are on treatment with prednisone or other medicines for graft versus host disease should review the timing of the 3rd vaccination with their transplant provider.
- Talking points and additional information for providers are available [online](#).
- FAQ information for patients can be found [online](#) and will be updated when scheduling becomes available through YNHH.

COVID Testing

While vaccination remains the most essential tool to reduce the severity of COVID-19 and lowers the risk of transmission, data suggests that some vaccinated individuals may still

be able to transmit the Delta variant. We require that approved face masks must be worn at all times when around others in indoor settings, regardless of vaccination status.

A reminder to all employees and medical staff, even those who are fully vaccinated, to stay home from work if you have any COVID-19 symptoms. We must do all we can to prevent exposures to our patients and our coworkers. Self-scheduling for COVID-19 testing can be done online through the [YNHHS](#) or [Yale University](#).

Use of Chaperones for Examinations, Treatments, and Procedures

A medical chaperone is a person who acts as a witness for a patient and a health professional during a medical examination, treatment, or procedure. Yale New Haven Health and Yale Medicine have implemented a new policy stating that medical chaperones will be required during sensitive examinations, treatments, or procedures as noted in the policies of the respective entities.

Medical chaperones will also be available during any other examination, treatment, or procedure at the patient's request. Additionally, any member of the care team may request the presence of a chaperone during any examination, treatment, or procedure.

- [Policy and Implementation Guide: Use of Chaperones for Exams, Treatments or Procedures in Ambulatory](#)
- [Documenting The Use of Chaperones For Inpatient Providers](#)
- [Chaperones for Exams, Treatments or Procedures in Ambulatory](#)

Smilow Star!

Sally Cascella, MSN, RN, is the Survivorship Coordinator for our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers in Trumbull and Fairfield, and at Bridgeport Hospital. She has been with the Health System for over 30 years and has been in her current role for 5 years. Her attention to detail is astounding and her commitment to cancer survivors is commendable. Sally has co-chaired Bridgeport Hospital's Cancer Survivors Day for several years and has gone above and beyond to raise funds to pay for the wonderful events each year. She coordinated in person events and this year a virtual one, and often does the planning on her own time and on weekends to be sure everything is perfect for our patients and families. The patients Sally has been in contact with throughout the years will still reach out to her to ask her for help with something or just to say hello or tell her of some good news they want to share. Sally is such a valuable member of our Care Center team and makes herself available to the entire staff, many of whom feel they can go to Sally for advice or assistance, both professionally and personally and she is always there for them. And oh the desserts she bakes! Sally brings in treats for the team, which are always amazing and enjoyed by all!



Thank you, Sally, for your commitment to our patients and your colleagues. You are a Smilow Star!!

Best regards,

Nita Ahuja, MD, MBA, FACS

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