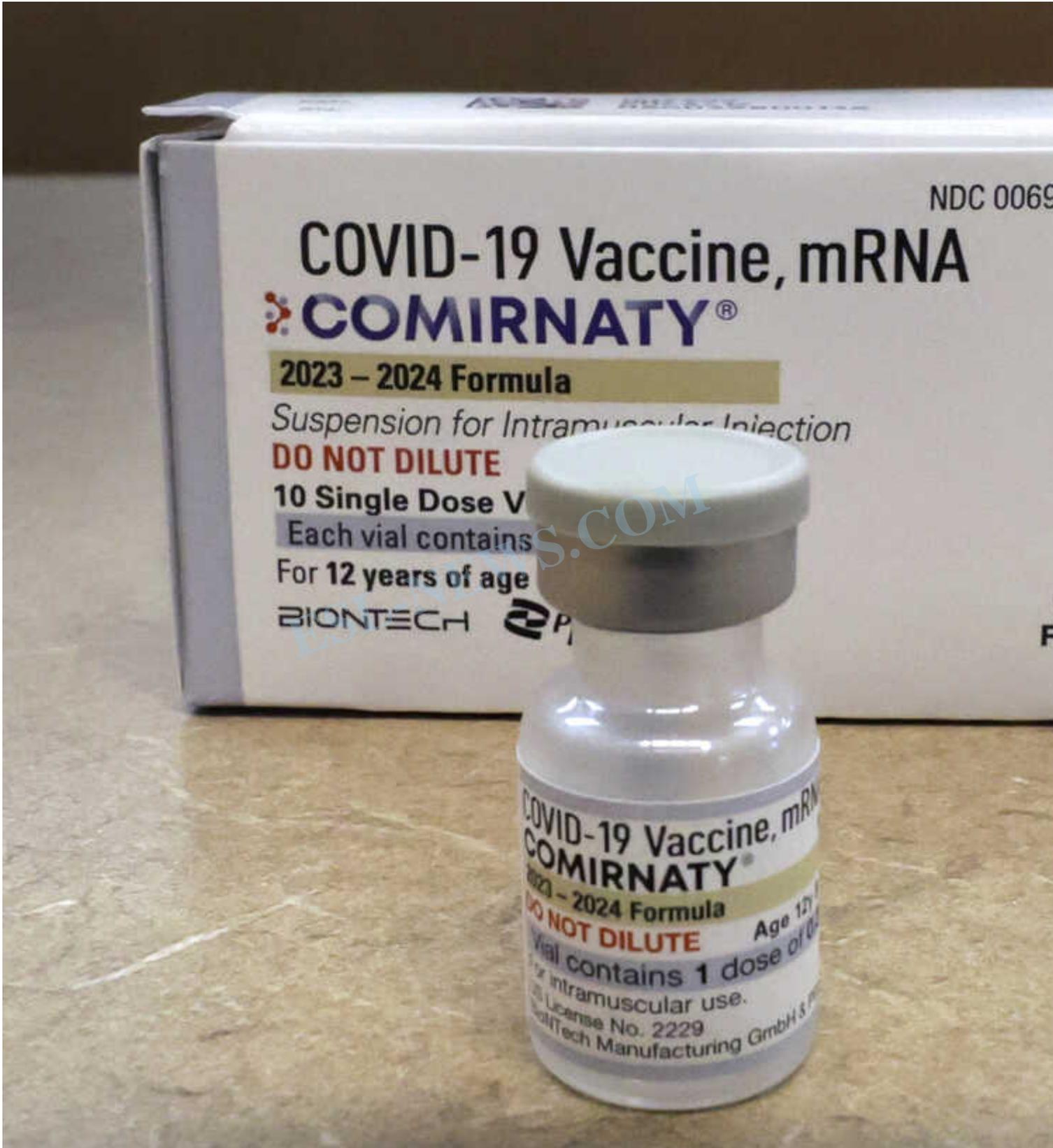




Health Officials Advise Elderly U.S. Adults to Get Additional COVID-19 Vaccine: NPR Reports

Description

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Comirnaty, a Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 booster vaccine, displayed in a pharmacy in Orlando, Florida on September 15, 2023.

Image credit: Joe Burbank/AP

U.S. health officials have reasserted the necessity of a third COVID-19 vaccine shot for elderly U.S. residents. This population is advised to get another dose of the most recent vaccine that was released in September 2023 if at least four months have transpired since their previous jab, according to a recent directive by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The assertion was made after regarding the significant number of COVID-19 related deaths and hospitalizations among individuals aged 65 years and over. "An additional vaccine dose can provide added protection for those at highest risk," noted CDC Director, Dr. Mandy Cohen in a press release.

An intense discussion preceded the decision from the advisory panel about whether to advise explicitly that older adults "should" receive the jabs or if they "may" do so. This mirrors the ongoing debate among health experts regarding the criticalness of an additional booster and whether a further recommendation might contribute to escalating vaccine fatigue.

However, there is little dispute regarding one aspect: COVID-19 still poses a significant risk, especially to seniors and those with pre-existing medical conditions. Even now, the CDC reports more than 20,000 hospitalizations and over 2,000 fatalities weekly due to the coronavirus, with individuals aged 65 and older carrying the highest hospitalization and death rates.

Doctors continue to say that for most older adults, the fall shot is sufficient as it upgrades immunity derived from prior vaccinations and exposure to the virus. Despite the general resistance to inoculation, vaccines still represent our best weapon against this unprecedented health crisis.

"Most people are coming in either wanting the vaccine or not," stated Dr. Jamie Loehr, a committee member and family physician based in Ithaca, New York. "I am trying to make it easier for providers to say 'Yes, we recommend this.'"

As it currently stands, most Americans have yet to receive the updated vaccine. The CDC data indicates that only 13% of U.S. children and about 22% of U.S. adults have been inoculated. However, for adults aged 65 and over, the vaccination rate is nearly 42%.

Despite this, the CDC continues to recommend the new shots for everyone aged 6 months and older. "People are tired of getting all these shots all the time," says Dr. David Canaday, an infectious diseases expert from Case Western Reserve University who researches COVID-19 in older people. "We have to be careful about over-recommending the vaccine."

However, there are still those at higher risk of severe illness and death who are seeking information about additional doses. The question is how to balance catering to this group while taking into account the broader context of resistance and fatigue towards vaccines.

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Vocabulary List:

1. **Elderly** // (adjective): Relating to old age or older people.
2. **Booster** // (noun): An additional dose of a vaccine given to boost immunity.
3. **Directive** // (noun): An official or authoritative order.
4. **Inoculation** // (noun): The act of protecting against disease by introducing a vaccine into the body.
5. **Catering** // (noun): The provision of food and drink at a social event or gathering.
6. **Fatigue** // (noun): Extreme tiredness resulting from mental or physical exertion.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What term is used to describe a sudden occurrence of a disease in a specific geographic area?

Option: Elderly

Option: Outbreak

Option: Gastrointestinal

Option: Endeavor

2. What is a substance used to stimulate the production of antibodies and provide immunity against one or several diseases?



- Option: Hygiene
- Option: Vaccine
- Option: Immunizations
- Option: Directive

3. Which term refers to extreme tiredness resulting from mental or physical exertion?

- Option: Campaign
- Option: Fatigue
- Option: Uptake
- Option: Compelling

4. What is the process by which a person becomes protected against a disease through vaccination?

- Option: Precautionary
- Option: Immunizations
- Option: Directive
- Option: Boosters

5. Which term relates to the colon and rectum in the human body?

- Option: Colorectal
- Option: Indispensable
- Option: Insidious
- Option: Alarming

6. What is the body's response to an injury or infection causing redness swelling pain and heat?

- Option: Inflammation
- Option: Gastrointestinal
- Option: Indispensable
- Option: Compelling

7. Which term refers to the business of providing food service at a remote site or a site such as a hotel pub or other locations?

- Option: Catering
- Option: Upheavals
- Option: Endeavor
- Option: Tolerable

8. What term describes an official or authoritative instruction regulation or command?

- Option: Directive
- Option: Alarming
- Option: Fatigue
- Option: Campaign

9. Which term describes a sudden and powerful forward or upward movement especially by a crowd or by a natural force like waves or tides?



- Option: Tolerable
- Option: Booster
- Option: Contagious
- Option: Surge

10. What is the act or practice of introducing a vaccine into the body to produce immunity against a specific disease?

- Option: Inoculation
- Option: Indispensable
- Option: Immunity
- Option: Exacerbated

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

- 11. COVID-19 is highly _____ spreading easily from person to person.
- 12. Regular exercise is _____ for maintaining good health.
- 13. Embarking on a new _____ can be both exciting and challenging.
- 14. The sudden increase in crime rates is quite _____ for the local community.
- 15. After receiving the initial vaccine dose a _____ shot may be required to enhance immunity.
- 16. The speaker delivered a _____ argument that convinced the audience to support the cause.
- 17. The successful _____ of new safety measures helped reduce workplace accidents.
- 18. A diet rich in fiber can promote healthy _____ function.
- 19. Measles is a highly _____ disease that spreads quickly among unvaccinated individuals.
- 20. Practicing good personal _____ can help prevent the spread of infections.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

- | |
|--|
| 21. Taking measures such as wearing masks and washing hands can help reduce the risk of infection. |
| 22. The disease had an onset making it difficult to detect in the early stages. |



23. Vaccination helps build against specific diseases enhancing the body's ability to fight infections.
24. The public health aimed to increase awareness about the importance of regular screenings for early detection of cancer.
25. The virus was highly resulting in rapid transmission within the community.
26. Political in the region led to instability and uncertainty among the population.
27. The side effects of the medication were mild and for most patients.
28. The lack of access to clean water the spread of waterborne diseases in the affected communities.
29. Healthcare facilities often provide specialized services for the population to address their unique needs.
30. Maintaining good personal is essential in preventing foodborne illnesses.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Outbreak 2. Vaccine 3. Fatigue 4. Immunizations 5. Colorectal 6. Inflammation 7. Catering 8. Directive 9. Surge 10. Inoculation
Gap-Fill: 11. Contagious 12. Indispensable 13. Endeavor 14. Alarming 15. Booster 16. Compelling 17. Uptake 18. Gastrointestinal 19. Communicable 20. Hygiene
Matching sentence: 1. Precautionary 2. Insidious 3. Immunity 4. Campaign 5. Infectious 6. Upheavals 7. Tolerable 8. Exacerbated 9. Elderly 10. Hygiene

CATEGORY

- 1. Health - LEVEL4

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Author

aimeeyoung99