

This Month in Public Health

in Seneca County

October 22, 2021, Edition

Headline News about COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters:

The landscape of COVID-19 vaccine boosters changed swiftly and comprehensively in the last several days. CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted unanimously yesterday to approve Moderna (mRNA) and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) booster doses. A booster dose of Comirnaty (the brand name for Pfizer's fully-approved COVID-19 vaccine) was previously approved in late September.

So who's eligible for these booster doses, and when can they get them?

Comirnaty (Pfizer-BioNTech)- to be given 6 or more months after completing the 2-dose series

- Individuals aged 65 years and older
- Individuals aged 18 to 64 years old at [high risk of severe COVID-19](#)*
- Individuals aged 16 to 64 years old with frequent institutional or occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2^α

Moderna- to be given 6 or more months after completing the 2-dose series

- Individuals aged 65 years and older
- Individuals aged 18 to 64 years old at [high risk of severe COVID-19](#)*
- Individuals aged 16 to 64 years old with frequent institutional or occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2^α

Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)- to be given 2 or more months after receiving the initial dose

- Individuals aged ≥18 years old

* *People with the following conditions are more likely to get severely ill (be hospitalized, need intensive care, require a ventilator to help them breathe, or die) from COVID-19:*

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| • Cancer | • Heart conditions | • Smoking (current or former) |
| • Chronic kidney disease | • HIV infection | • Solid organ or blood stem cell transplant |
| • Chronic liver disease | • Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) | • Stroke or cerebrovascular disease |
| • Chronic lung diseases | • Mental health conditions | • Substance use disorders |
| • Dementia (or other neurological conditions) | • Overweight and obesity | • Tuberculosis |
| • Diabetes (Type 1, Type 2) | • Pregnancy | |
| • Down syndrome | • Sickle cell disease or thalassemia | |

^α *Adults aged 18–64 years who work or reside in certain settings (e.g., health care, schools, correctional facilities, homeless shelters) may be at increased risk of being exposed to COVID-19. Examples could be first responders (e.g., healthcare workers, firefighters, police, congregational care staff); education staff (e.g., teachers, support staff, daycare workers); food and agriculture workers; manufacturing workers; corrections officers; postal service workers; public transit workers; grocery store workers.*

The approval of booster doses wasn't the only change that happened this week. Each of the vaccines is now available as a heterologous booster dose in eligible individuals. What does this mean? A person can receive a booster dose that is different than the one they received as their primary COVID-19 vaccination. For example,

- A person who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine initially can get a booster dose of Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson, 2 or more months after their initial dose.
- A person who completed a 2-dose series of Pfizer can receive a booster dose of Moderna, or vice versa. However, they must wait at least 6 months after they got their 2nd dose of Pfizer or Moderna.
- This "mixing and matching" of boosters comes after a clinical trial showed the practice can actually increase immune response. (See <https://www.contagionlive.com/view/mixing-covid-19-vaccine-boosters-increases-immune-response> for more information.) "Mixing and matching" is ONLY approved for the booster dose. You still must complete the initial vaccination series using the same vaccine.

Booster Dose Planning at Seneca County General Health District

- Seneca County General Health District is planning a Moderna booster clinic. We'll also be offering booster doses during our COVID-19 vaccination clinic each Weds. Watch our website and Facebook page for details!

The Current Status of COVID-19 in Seneca County and Beyond This table reflects data available on Oct 22, 2021.

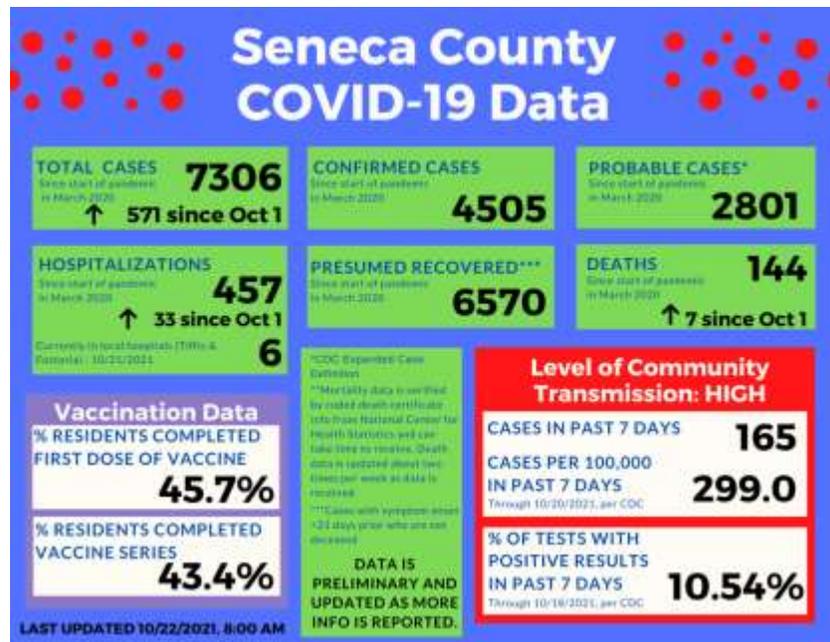
	# of cases in the last 7 days per 100,000 people	# of cases in past 7 days	% of +tests in the past 7 days	Level of Community Transmission	% of residents who've had at least 1 dose	% of residents who've gotten their final dose
United States	150.9	500,854	5.0%	HIGH	66.2% (219,900,525 people)	57.3% (190,179,553 people)
Ohio	224.5	26,246	8-9.9%	HIGH	55.4% (6,478,673 people)	51.5% (6,017,435 people)
Seneca County	313.5	173	9.5%	HIGH	45.7% (25,223 people)	43.8% (24,192 people)

➤ **Here's an update regarding COVID-19 cases among Seneca County children, teens, and young adults:**

# of New Cases Among Seneca County Youth Under Age 18	June 1-30, 2021	July 1-31, 2021	Aug 1-31, 2021	Sept 1-30, 2021	Oct 1-21, 2021
Females	0	1	32	137	59
Males	2	4	31	136	65
Unknown Gender	0	0	0	3	0
Total	2	5	63	276	124

➤ **We post current COVID-19 stats Monday through Friday on our website www.senecahealthdept.org and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SCGHD>.**

The graphic below shows data available through the evening of 10/21/2021.



Wondering if Your Symptoms are COVID-19? Free Testing Kits Are Available!

➤ **COVID-19, allergies, and colds can have very similar symptoms.** It's easy to assume your sore throat, cough, or sinus congestion is caused by seasonal allergies. It's safer for everyone if you find out for sure, so that you don't expose lots of people to COVID-19. Use a home test kit to quickly find out!

➤ **Free Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen Home Tests are again available.** They're done completely at home under the direct visual supervision of a telehealth provider (so a laptop, tablet, or smart phone is required). Call ahead to make sure test kits are still available.



- Seneca County General Health District, 71 S Washington Street, Suite 1102, Tiffin; (419) 447-3691
- Seneca East Public Library, 14 North Main Street, Attica; (419) 426-3825
- Tiffin-Seneca Public Library, 77 Jefferson Street, Tiffin; (419) 447-3751 Tiffin; (419) 455-8140