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NEWS RELEASE

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Aviva Health Now Offering Third Doses of Pfizer, Moderna COVID-19 Vaccines to Immunocompromised Individuals

ROSEBURG, Ore. – Aviva Health is now offering third doses of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines to individuals who are immunocompromised.

This follows authorization from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) that certain people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised can receive a third dose of the mRNA vaccines.

OHA explicitly pointed to the difference between a booster and a third dose. Boosters are typically given when immunity has diminished. On the other hand, the third dose provides greater immunity to people whose existing medical conditions may inhibit strong protection from the first two doses.

“The delta COVID-19 is devastating Douglas County right now,” says Aviva Health Vice President of Community Health Christin Rutledge. “It’s vitally important that eligible immunocompromised individuals get this third dose of these vaccines, which have proven to decrease hospitalization, transmission and death.”

Eligible individuals must have received their second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine at least 28 days prior to the third dose and meet the following criteria:

- Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies
- Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Receipt of CAR*-T-cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge, Wiskott-Aldrich syndromes)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with:
 - High-dose corticosteroids (i.e., ≥ 20 mg prednisone or equivalent per day),
 - Alkylating agents (carboplatin, cisplatin, carmustin)
 - Antimetabolites (Gemcitabine, Methotrexate, 5-fluorouracil)
 - Transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs
 - Cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive
 - TNF blockers (Humira (adalimumab), Remicade (infliximab)
 - Other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory

Rutledge also urges individuals who are still unvaccinated to get the shot.

“People in our community are dying and the health care system is being overwhelmed,” she says. “The best pathway out of this dire situation is to protect yourself and the community through vaccination, which time and again has proven to be safe and effective.

“We’ll reach herd immunity either through vaccination uptake or spread of the virus,” Rutledge says. “There’s the fast, safe way and the painful way, and for the sake of the people of Douglas County I hope we choose fast and safe.”

ABOUT AVIVA HEALTH

Founded in 1991, Aviva Health is an independent, board-governed, not-for-profit organization that cares for the people of Douglas County by providing high-quality, patient-centered, accessible and affordable medical, dental and behavioral healthcare, regardless of their ability to pay. Aviva Health offers integrated services from 10 clinic sites in Roseburg, Myrtle Creek, Sutherlin, Glide and North Douglas County (Drain), including a Teen Health Center located on the campus of Roseburg High School. In partnership with CHI Mercy Medical Center, Aviva Health also serves as the family medicine practice site for the Roseburg Family Medicine Residency Program.