



*To protect, nurture & advance the health of our community*

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: March 6, 2024

CONTACT: Oneida County Health Department, 715-369-6111

### **CDC RECOMMENDS SECOND COVID-19 VACCINE FOR ADULTS 65+: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

Oneida County Health Department is now offering a second 2023 – 2024 COVID-19 vaccine to adults 65+ for additional severe illness protection through a summer peak. Here's what you need to know:

#### **Who can get a second COVID vaccine?**

Adults ages 65 and older are eligible to receive a second 2023 – 2024 COVID-19 vaccine at least four months after their initial 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine.

#### **Why is a second COVID recommended?**

Adults ages 65 and older are at higher risk for more severe complications of COVID-19. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) reviewed fall and winter 2023 - 2024 COVID-19 hospitalizations and vaccine coverage data. Although COVID-19 hospitalizations were highest in late December/early January, about 20,000 new hospital admissions and 2,000 deaths due to COVID-19 still occur each week in the US. The highest rates of hospitalizations and deaths are in people age 65 years and older. In fact, from October 2023 – January 2024, over two-thirds (67%) of COVID-19 hospitalizations occurred in this people ages 65 and older.

#### **Why is a second COVID vaccine recommended in the spring?**

Over the past four years, cases of COVID-19 have risen in the summer and in the winter. While COVID-19 levels tend to be higher in the winter than in the summer, it is not as seasonal as flu and RSV where we see almost no cases in the summer. At this point, we still see hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19 throughout the warmer months. The CDC says getting an extra dose within the next few months would offer the best protection for a summer peak.

#### **Is the vaccine the same as the one offered in the fall and winter?**

The spring vaccine is the same as the fall and winter vaccine. It targets just one strain, the recent variant of the omicron strain, called XBB.1.5.

#### **Where can I get a second COVID vaccine?**

Oneida County Health Department offers COVID-19 vaccine to those eligible. Appointments are strongly encouraged, but walk-ins are accepted. Vaccines are provided 8:30 am – 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. To schedule your appointment, call 715-369-6111. For more information, about the COVID-19 and other services at Oneida County Health Department, visit [www.oneidacountypublichealth.org](http://www.oneidacountypublichealth.org). If you have questions related to your health or if you should receive the vaccine, talking with your healthcare provider is recommended.

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100 W. Keenan Street | Rhinelander, WI 54501 • Monday-Friday 8:00AM-4:30PM

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to lead Oneida County to a healthy and equitable future.*