



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Oct. 28, 2021 Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System Contact: Sheila Marie Austin, (334) 324.1222 Sheila.Austin2@va.gov

CAVHCS Offering COVID-19 Booster Shots

TUSKEGEE, AL – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identified and recommended several groups of people who should get a COVID-19 booster. Following this expanded guidance from CDC, VA can provide booster shots at sites offering Moderna and J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccines, as supply and capacity permits.

CAVHCS is administering the Moderna and J&J/Janssen COVID-19 booster shots. Call us at 866-601-1079 to schedule an appointment and our staff will help you find a time that's convenient for you. Vaccinations at our Community Based Outpatient Clinics are by appointment only. Appointments are preferred; however, you can walk-in at our designated locations.

Walk-in times and locations:

MVAC COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Tuesdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (CT) Location: Montgomery VA Clinic (off Chantilly Parkway) 8105 Veterans Way, Montgomery, Alabama.

Tuskegee Campus COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Wednesdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (CT) Location: Tuskegee Campus 2400 Hospital Road, Tuskegee Alabama (Building 90)

If you choose, you can also receive your booster shot at no cost to you outside of VA. You can locate a vaccine site at Vaccines.gov - Search for COVID-19 vaccine locations. Make sure to take your CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card when you go! We encourage you to share this information with your VA health care team.

Booster Shot Eligibility

For individuals who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at six months or more after their initial series:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings
- Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- Age 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings

For people who received a Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are recommended for those who are **18 and older and who were vaccinated at least two months ago**.

VA is also offering the booster to Veterans, their spouses, caregivers and CHAMPVA recipients under the authority of the <u>SAVE LIVES Act</u> as supply and capacity permits. The Save Lives Act authorizes <u>VA to offer vaccines</u> to Veterans <u>not traditionally</u> <u>eligible for VHA care</u> and others, including spouses and caregivers of Veterans.

Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type that they initially received and others, may prefer to get a different booster. **CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.**

If you're not currently receiving health care through VA, find out if you're eligible and apply now at this link https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/. This will shorten you waiting time during the vaccination clinics.