

Mon, Sep 27, 2021
COVID Update
From Dr. Sara Knutson

COVID updates:

- 1) **Employee vaccine mandate** has been sent out by hospital Administration - see the policy on the intranet for the particulars: <http://10.10.20.118/policies/hr/HR1006.pdf>
- 2) **New vaccine booster guidelines** from CDC 9/24/21:

CDC recommends:

- **People 65 years and older** and residents in long-term care settings should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series,
- **People aged 50–64 years** with underlying medical conditions should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series,
- **People aged 18–49 years** with underlying medical conditions may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks, and
- **People aged 18-64 years** who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

Note that these booster recommendations only apply to the PFIZER vaccine, and these guidelines are a supplement to the previously recommended additional doses of Pfizer or Moderna for immunocompromised individuals >1 month out from their 2nd vaccine dose.

- 3) **Mid Sept modeling data for CO** (see link for more info) projects increasing hospital demand over September going forward but remaining below last year's 12/20 peak. Projections better/worse depending on any changes in vaccination rate and/or transmission control. Data projects 1000-2000 more deaths CO wide thru 12/1, with presently 70% estimated immunity state wide and 1/99 CO individuals infectious.

- 4) We have treated somewhere around 100 high risk patients with **monoclonal AB**, with uniformly positive results and minimal side effects (except for one allergic reaction which was medically managed without sequellae).

OF concern, there has been a recent shortage of monoclonal AB supply and we are doing everything we can to get the medication and continue this service without interruption. After discussion, hospital administration is lending guidance that available infusions be directed to Delta County residents to attempt to minimize the burden on our inpatient load. For very high risk patients from elsewhere that can't find access to this treatment, we may be able to supply an infusion on a case by case basis.

Please be judicious in referring patients for infusions that fully meet the criteria for high risk and are from Delta County. I do have contact numbers for the Montrose infusion POC (970-240-7194) and the Grand Junction infusion POC (833-461-0963), although we don't know what supply of MCAB they have. Please make sure the patient has decided to proceed and is appropriately consented for the treatment before referring them. This avoids last minute disruption of the schedule which may compromise other patients' timely access to this treatment.

Dr. Sara Knutson