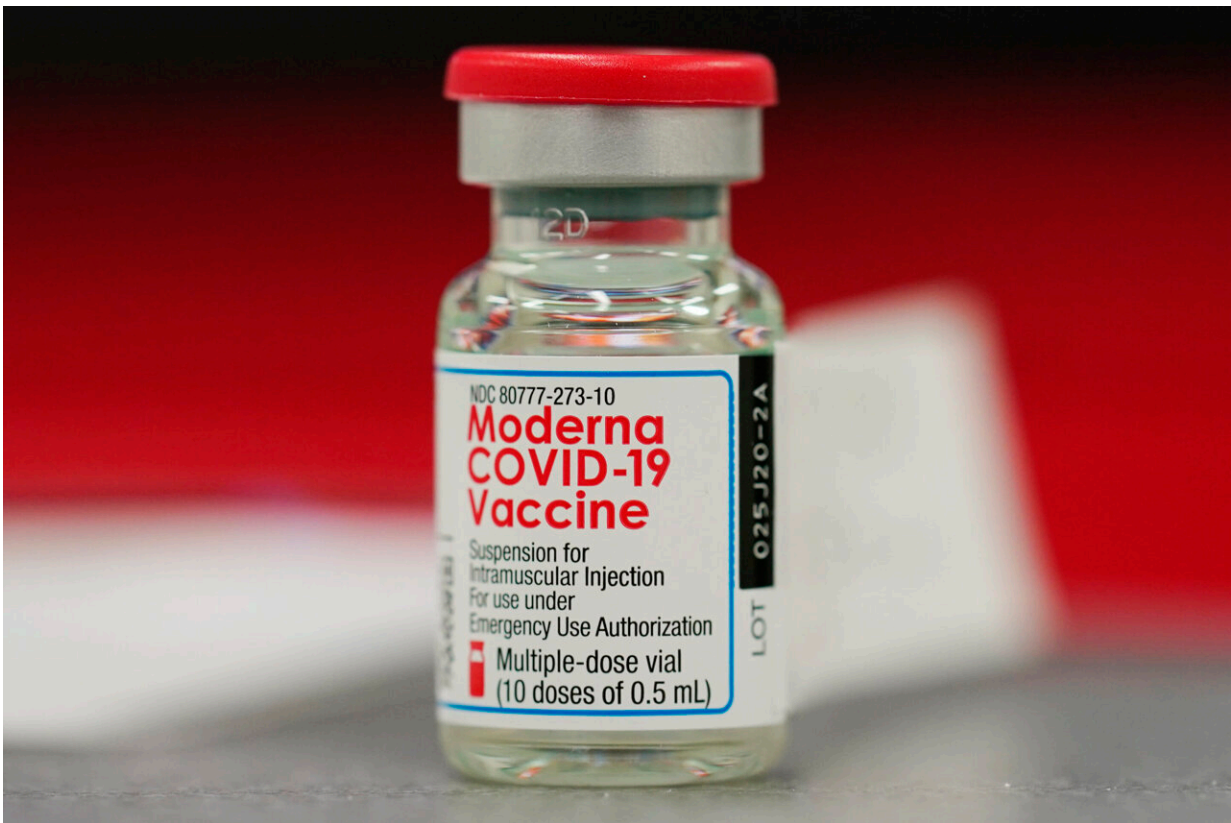


FDA official: Booster announcements coming Wednesday

October 20 2021, by Matthew Perrone and Lauran Neergaard



This Dec. 23, 2020 file photo shows a vial of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in the first round of staff vaccinations at a hospital in Denver. Federal regulators are expected to authorize the mixing and matching of COVID-19 booster shots this week in an effort to provide flexibility for those seeking to maintain protection against the coronavirus. The upcoming announcement by the Food and Drug Administration is likely to come along with authorization for boosters of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson shots. Credit: AP Photo/David Zalubowski, File

U.S. regulators expect to rule Wednesday on authorizing booster doses of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines, a Food and Drug Administration official said at a government meeting.

The FDA's Doran Fink previewed "some announcements later today," which were expected to include allowing the mixing and matching of COVID-19 booster doses among the three U.S. manufacturers—Pfizer, Moderna and J&J. Fink appeared at a meeting of [vaccine](#) experts convened by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who are expected to take up the FDA decisions and make their own recommendations on Thursday.

Several million Americans already have gotten a third shot to boost Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine.

Last week, the FDA's panel of independent experts unanimously recommended broadening the booster campaign to include recipients of the two-dose Moderna vaccine and J&J's one-shot vaccine. Most experts also agreed that using a different booster brand appeared safe and effective for revving up protection. The FDA is not required to follow the group's advice, though it generally does.

"FDA has been very busy since last Friday wrapping up our review and working toward authorization" of the vaccine applications, said Fink, a deputy director in the FDA's vaccine division.

The [booster](#) recommendations won't become official until after the CDC's director affirms who should get them and when.

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