

HEADQUARTERS

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TIF Supports Administration of COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose to Patients with Haemoglobin Disorders

On September 22, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 Vaccine (Comirnaty) for certain ‘vulnerable’ or ‘at risk’ populations¹. More recently, on October 14, an FDA Advisory Panel unanimously endorsed² the Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine (Spikevax) booster dose for the same groups already eligible for a Pfizer-BioNTech boost.

These groups include people 65 and older, those 18 to 64 with risk factors for severe Covid-19, and those whose frequent institutional or occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2 puts them at high risk of serious complications of Covid-19.

In light of the aforementioned recommendations and taking into account that people with haemoglobin disorders, with the exception of carriers, are or should be included amongst the ‘vulnerable’ or ‘at risk’ groups of every country’s population³, the Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF) supports the administration of a booster dose of either one of these vaccines to patients with haemoglobin disorders, **where such an option is offered by the responsible national health authorities.**

¹FDA News Release <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-authorizes-booster-dose-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-certain-populations>

² STAT NEWS <https://www.statnews.com/2021/10/14/fda-advisory-panel-unanimously-endorses-modernas-covid-vaccine-booster-for-some-groups/>

³ TIF Position Statement ‘COVID-19: Inclusion of Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Disease patients in the high risk population’ https://thalassaemia.org.cy/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/TIF-Position-Statement_Thal-SCD-High-Risk-Group.pdf

In countries where the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna Covid-19 vaccines are limited or scarce, patients with haemoglobin disorders should receive a booster dose on prioritization, according to their classification in Risk Groups, as specified in the respective TIF Educational Guide ‘Thalassaemia & Sickle Cell Disease: Risk Groups & Other Considerations’⁴.

⁴ TIF Educational Guide ‘*The COVID-19 Pandemic & Haemoglobin Disorders - Thalassaemia & Sickle Cell Disease: Classification of Risk Groups & Other Considerations*’ https://thalassaemia.org.cy/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/HbDisordersCOVID-19_Classification-of-Risk-Groups_V4.pdf