

Transcript for Dr. Mark Meeker, vice president community medicine, OSF HealthCare Multispecialty Group

Dr. Meeker says the supplemental vaccines are approved for a very limited group of patients.

“They’re very specific with this booster because data is still coming in. There have been studies done at university centers, studying people with solid tumors, for example, people with transplants, and they have found that the third shot really does enhance their response to the vaccine.” (:19)

Dr. Meeker says there is specific clinical guidance for those patients.

“Right now, based on the data we have available, the CDC is recommending that you continue the series with the first vaccine that you had received. If, however, you have trouble accessing that particular brand of vaccine – you cannot access it or there’s a supply issue – then they recommend you get the other one rather than nothing at all. The third booster needs to be at least, for both of them, 28 days after that second shot.” (:25)

Dr. Meeker says this initial group of patients is one for which there is the most robust data.

“We knew by the nature of their illness, or their situation, that they may not have responded adequately to the first two doses. So that was studied early on and we now have the data in that shows that is indeed the case – a lot of those patients didn’t respond well enough to the first two doses, and the third shot indeed makes a significant difference in a lot of them.” (:23)

There’s no need for a medical referral but Dr. Meeker says it is a good idea to check with your medical provider.

“I would highly recommend you give them a call, send them an email – however you communicate with your care team – and ask them for advice about this booster. At OSF, we have the vaccine available through all of our clinics so if you have an OSF physician for APP (advanced practice provider), you’ll have access to the booster if you qualify.” (:20)