

MSDH: Immunocompromised Mississippians can now receive booster shot

Mississippi Today
by Will Stribling

Immunocompromised Mississippians who received either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines can now schedule an appointment to receive a third booster dose through the University of Mississippi Medical Center’s vaccine scheduler.

Previously, the only way for people with weaker immune systems to get a booster shot in Mississippi was by seeking one from their own doctors. Now, a person can self-attest that they are immunocompromised and get a booster through UMMC.

Film starring Morgan Freeman filming in Mississippi capital

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A home in the Jackson neighborhood of Belhaven is being used to film a movie starring Mississippi native Morgan Freeman.

The film “Mutl” is about a detective investigating a series of killings with the help of Freeman, who plays professor Dr. Mackles.

John Read of Madison is the film’s location manager. He told WLBT-TV that the Belhaven house is where the production team is shooting scenes at the detective’s home.

“The director had specifically said that he liked Belhaven because we had done some scouting in the area,” Read said. “He said these houses I think would suit our character, our lead character is a policeman, a detective.”

Read’s job is to scout locations across the state for filmmakers. Four of his last five movies were set elsewhere but were shot in the state because of its growing appeal to filmmakers.

‘Mutl’ is Read’s third film in Mississippi working with Freeman.

Resident Hillary Zimmerman lives across the street where the crew used his driveway during filming.

“I’ve been seeing a lot of people on production set up, and it’s kinda fun talking with them about what their jobs are,” Zimmerman said. “It’s amazing how many people it takes to do something like this for a project like this.”

Filming in Jackson was set to wrap on Monday, August 30.

More than 18,000 Mississippians have already received booster shots, according to data from the Mississippi Department of Health.

People who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine are not eligible for boosters because the data on its use is several months behind that of the mRNA vaccines.

“Johnson and Johnson is giving individuals good protection from the severe complications, but it may well

be that a booster is recommended for those individuals at some point in time in the future,” State Epidemiologist, Dr. Paul Byers, said during a press conference on Tuesday.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that moderately to severely immunocompromised people be allowed to seek a third dose on August 13, a decision that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC) quickly endorsed.

The soonest anyone can receive a third dose is 28 days after receiving their second one. MSDH primarily recommends boosters for severely immunocompromised people who have certain conditions or have received treatments that suppress their immune systems. According to MSDH, these include but are not limited to:

- Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies
- Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Receipt of CAR-T-cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within two years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)



The Pfizer vaccine is administered to a motorist during a drive-up vaccination event held at New Hope Baptist Church Saturday morning, Aug. 21, 2021, in Jackson. Credit: Vickie D. King/Mississippi Today

- py) Aldrich syndrome)
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids

PUBLIC NOTICE Holmes County Consolidated School District

Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6, the Holmes County Consolidated School District is hereby placed under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Education acting through the State Board of Education’s appointed interim superintendent, Dr. Jennifer Wilson. Pursuant to Mississippi Code Annotated § 37-17-6, this public notice is given by the State Board of Education and the Commission on School Accreditation.

On August 2, 2021, the Commission on School Accreditation determined there is sufficient cause to believe that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Holmes County Consolidated School District brought on by serious violations of federal and state law and accreditation standards, serious concerns regarding financial resources, inappropriate standards of governance, a continued pattern of poor academic performance, and the failure to comply with standards that sustain a safe school climate, which jeopardizes the safety, security, and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of this District, and which, without intervention by the Commission on School Accreditation and the Mississippi Board of Education, could result in the continuation of an inadequate and unstable educational environment, thereby denying the students of this District the opportunity to learn, to excel, and to obtain a free and appropriate public education.

On August 3, 2021, the State Board of Education reviewed the findings of an on-site investigative audit conducted by the Office of Accreditation, Mississippi Department of Education for the Holmes County Consolidated School District. The State Board of Education found that there is sufficient cause to believe that an extreme emergency situation exists in the Holmes County Consolidated School District brought on by serious violations of state and federal law and accreditation standards, serious concerns regarding financial resources and lack of internal controls, inappropriate standards of governance, inappropriate oversight by the local board, a continued pattern of poor academic performance, and the failure to sustain a safe school climate, which jeopardizes the safety, security, and educational interests of the children enrolled in the schools of this District, and which, without intervention by the Mississippi Board of Education, could result in the continuation of an inadequate and unstable educational environment, thereby denying the students of this District the opportunity to learn, to excel, and to obtain a free and appropriate public education.

The State Board of Education further finds that Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6 (12)(c)(vii) authorizes the State Board of Education to take such action as prescribed in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-13 when a state of emergency is declared under Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6 (12)(b);

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-13, the State Board of Education does hereby abolish the Holmes County Consolidated School District pursuant to Miss Code Ann § 37-17-13, effective on the date of the Proclamation of the Governor.

Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-13, the State Board of Education will exercise all powers which were held by the previously existing school board and the previously existing superintendent of schools.

Copies of the August 2nd Resolution adopted by the Commission on School Accreditation and the August 3rd Resolution adopted by the State Board of Education that a state of emergency be declared in the Holmes County Consolidated School District accompanied the official request to the Governor by the State Board of Education and are on file in the Mississippi Department of Education. By Proclamation dated the 5th day of August, 2021, Governor Tate Reeves declared that a state of emergency exists in the Holmes County Consolidated School District. Based on this declaration, the State Board of Education approved the appointment of Dr. Jennifer Wilson as the interim superintendent for the Holmes County Consolidated School District. As interim superintendent, Dr. Wilson is responsible for the administration, management and operation of the district and will periodically report to the State Board of Education on the progress or lack of progress being made in the district to correct the district’s impairments during the state of emergency.