



COVID-19

COVID-19 Vaccines for People with Underlying Medical Conditions

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CDC now recommends that people aged 65 years and older, residents in long-term care settings, and 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 completing their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series. Other groups **may** receive a booster shot based on their individual risk and benefit. [Learn more.](#)

People with moderately to severely compromised immune systems should [receive an additional dose](#) of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine after the initial 2 doses.

COVID-19 vaccines may be administered to most people with underlying medical conditions. This information aims to help people in the following groups make an informed decision about receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. [Learn more about what you can do when you have been fully vaccinated.](#)



If you have questions about getting COVID-19 vaccine, you should talk to your healthcare providers for advice. Inform your vaccination provider about all your allergies and health conditions.

People with Underlying Medical Conditions at Increased Risk from COVID-19

Adults of any age with [certain underlying medical conditions](#) are at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for and can be administered to most people with underlying medical conditions.

The [list of high-risk medical conditions that put people at increased risk for severe COVID-19-associated illness](#) is updated routinely as new data become available.

Learn more about [booster shots](#).

People Who Have:

Weakened immune systems

People with HIV and those with weakened immune systems due to other illnesses or medication [might be at increased risk for severe COVID-19](#). They may receive a COVID-19 vaccine. However, they should be aware of the limited safety data:

- Information about the safety of COVID-19 vaccines for people who have weakened immune systems in this group is not yet available

- People living with HIV were included in clinical trials, though safety data specific to this group are not yet available at this time
- If you have a condition or are taking medications that weaken your immune system, you may NOT be fully protected even if you are fully vaccinated. Talk to your healthcare provider. Even after vaccination, you may need to continue taking all [precautions](#).

People Who Have Previously Had:

Autoimmune conditions

People with autoimmune conditions may receive a COVID-19 vaccine. People from this group were eligible for enrollment in some of the clinical trials. Results from these clinical trials showed that safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in people with autoimmune conditions were similar to the general population. More information about vaccine clinical trials can be found below.

Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS)

People who have previously had GBS may receive a COVID-19 vaccine. To date, no cases of GBS have been reported following vaccination in participants in the [mRNA COVID-19 vaccine](#) clinical trials. One case of GBS was reported in a vaccinated participant in the Johnson & Johnson Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine clinical trial (compared to one GBS case among those who received placebo). With few exceptions, the independent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) [general best practice guidelines for immunization](#) do not include a history of GBS as a precaution to vaccination with other vaccines.

Bell's palsy

People who have previously had Bell's palsy may receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Cases of Bell's palsy were reported following vaccination in participants in the COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials. However, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not consider these to be more than the rate expected in the general population. They have not concluded these cases were caused by vaccination.

People with Underlying Medical Conditions Included in the COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trials

Vaccine manufacturers report information from clinical trials, including demographics and underlying medical conditions of people who participated in COVID-19 vaccine trials. You can find additional information on COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials at clinicaltrials.gov [↗](#), a database of privately and publicly funded clinical studies conducted around the world.

Find a COVID-19 Vaccine: Search vaccines.gov, text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find locations near you.

Related Pages

Specific Vaccines

- › [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- › [Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- › [Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine](#)

Specific Groups

- › [Information for Specific Groups](#)

- › People with Disabilities
- › Pregnancy or Breastfeeding

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