COVID-19

can and wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission.

COVID-19 Vaccines for Older Adults

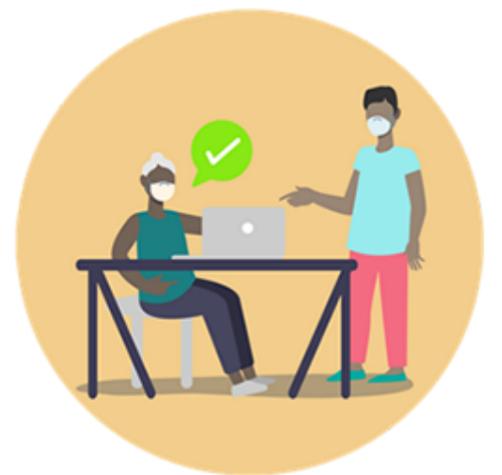Updated Oct. 6, 2021   Print

> CDC now recommends that people aged 65 years and older, residents aged 18 years and older 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.

The risk of severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is an important step in helping to prevent getting sick from COVID-19.

Tips on How to Get a COVID–19 Vaccine

- Contact your state or local health department for more information.
- Ask a family member or friend to help with scheduling an appointment.
- Ask your doctor, pharmacist, or community health center if they provide vaccines.

> **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.

What You Should Know about Vaccines

- You can help protect yourself and the people around you by getting vaccinated.
- COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective in preventing severe illness from COVID-19.
- Depending on the kind of COVID-19 vaccine you get, you might need a second shot 3 or 4 weeks after your first shot.
- The vaccines cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

You May Have Side Effects from the Vaccine

Some people have side effects after getting vaccinated. Common side effects include:

- Pain, redness, or swelling where you get your shot
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle pain

- Chills
- Fever
- Nausea

These are normal signs that your body is building protection against COVID-19. Learn more about what to expect after getting your COVID-19 vaccine.

Booster Shots and Additional Doses

A booster shot is administered when a person has completed their initial vaccine series and protection against the virus has decreased over time. Certain groups of people, including older adults, are eligible to get a booster shot at least 6 months after completing their initial vaccination series. Learn more about who is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot.

An additional dose is administered when a person may not have built the same level of immunity to their initial vaccine series as someone who is not immunocompromised. CDC recommends that people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems receive an additional dose at least 28 days after completing their initial vaccine series. Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines for moderately to severely immunocompromised people.

Vaccination Card and Booster Shots

At your first vaccination appointment, you should have received a vaccination card that tells you what COVID-19 vaccine you received, the dates you received it, and where you received it. Bring this vaccination card to your booster dose vaccination appointment.

Fast, Easy, Free, and Nearby COVID-19 Vaccination

The federal government is providing the vaccine **free of charge** to all people living in the United States, regardless of their immigration or health insurance status.

COVID-19 Vaccines Are Free

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Who Is Eligible for a COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot?

COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People

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