



COVID-19

Different COVID-19 Vaccines

Updated Nov. 9, 2021

NOTICE: CDC now recommends that children between the ages of 5 and 11 years receive the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine. Learn more about [vaccines for children and teens](#).

Approved or Authorized Vaccines

Below are the vaccines that are approved or authorized in the United States to prevent COVID-19:

- Pfizer-BioNTech
- Moderna
- Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen



Different COVID-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines are now widely available for people ages 5 years and older. In most cases, you do not need an appointment. [Learn how to find a COVID-19 vaccine](#) so you can get vaccinated as soon as you can.

All currently approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccines are [safe](#) and [effective](#) and [reduce your risk](#) of severe illness. CDC does not recommend one vaccine over another.

Pfizer-BioNTech ^[1]	Moderna ^[1]	Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen ^[1]
Ages Recommended 5+ years old	Ages Recommended 18+ years old	Ages Recommended 18+ years old
Primary Series 2 doses Given 3 weeks (21 days) apart ^[2]	Primary Series 2 doses Given 4 weeks (28 days) apart ^[2]	Primary Series 1 dose
Booster Dose At least 6 months after last dose in series in some people ages 18 years and older who are at higher risk for	Booster Dose At least 6 months after last dose in series in some people ages 18 years and older who are at higher risk for	Booster Dose At least 2 months after first dose in all people ages 18 years and older.

COVID-19 exposure or severe illness. Any of the three COVID-19 vaccines can be used for the booster dose.	COVID-19 exposure or severe illness. Any of the three COVID-19 vaccines can be used for the booster dose.	Any of the three COVID-19 vaccines can be used for the booster dose.
When Fully Vaccinated 2 weeks after 2 nd dose	When Fully Vaccinated 2 weeks after 2 nd dose	When Fully Vaccinated 2 weeks after 1 st dose

¹ If you had a severe [allergic reaction](#) (anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or if you have a known (diagnosed) allergy to a [COVID-19 vaccine ingredient](#), you should not get that vaccine. If you have been instructed not to get one type of COVID-19 vaccine, you may still be able to get another type. Learn more [information for people with allergies](#).

² You should get your [second shot](#) as close to the recommended 3-week or 4-week interval as possible.

Additional Recommendations for Immunocompromised People

Additional primary dose: [Moderately to severely immunocompromised](#) people who are 12 years and older and received a Pfizer-BioNTech primary series or 18 years and older and received a Moderna primary series should receive an additional primary dose of the same vaccine at least 28 days after their second dose.

Booster dose: Moderately to severely immunocompromised people who are 18 years of age and older and received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna primary series are also [eligible for a booster dose](#) at least 6 months after their additional primary dose, using any of the three COVID-19 vaccines.

Immunocompromised people who received a J&J/Janssen vaccine are not recommended to receive an additional primary dose, but should receive a booster dose at least 2 months after their initial dose, using any of the three COVID-19 vaccines.

Vaccine Types and How They Work

- [Understanding How COVID-19 Vaccines Work](#)
Learn how the body fights infection and how COVID-19 vaccines protect people by producing immunity. Also see the different types of COVID-19 vaccines that currently are available or are undergoing large-scale (Phase 3) clinical trials in the United States.
- [COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines](#)
Information about mRNA vaccines generally and COVID-19 vaccines that use this technology.
- [Viral Vector COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
Information about viral vector vaccines generally and COVID-19 vaccines that use this technology.

Vaccines in Phase 3 Clinical Trials

Large-scale (Phase 3) clinical trials are in progress or being planned for COVID-19 vaccines in the United States. To learn more about U.S. COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials, including vaccines in earlier stages of development, by visiting [clinicaltrials.gov](#). [↗](#)

