



# COVID-19

## Different COVID-19 Vaccines

Updated Dec. 14, 2021

CDC expands COVID-19 booster recommendations to 16- and 17-year-olds. Learn more about [booster shots](#).

### 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 possible.

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 <sup>[1]</sup>   | Moderna <sup>[1]</sup>  | Johnson & Johnson's Janssen <sup>[1]</sup>   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Ages Recommended</b><br>5+ years old  | <b>Ages Recommended</b><br>18+ years old  | <b>Ages Recommended</b><br>18+ years old   |
| <b>Primary Series</b><br>2 doses<br>Given 3 weeks (21 days) apart <sup>[2]</sup>   | <b>Primary Series</b><br>2 doses<br>Given 4 weeks (28 days) apart <sup>[2]</sup>                | <b>Primary Series</b><br>1 dose  |
| <b>Booster Dose</b><br>Everyone ages 16 years and older is eligible at least 6 months after the last dose in their primary series. For | <b>Booster Dose</b><br>Everyone ages 18 years and older is eligible at least 6 months after the | <b>Booster Dose</b><br>At least 2 months after the first dose for all people ages 18 years and |

last dose in their primary series. For people ages 18 years and older, any of the three COVID-19 vaccines can be used for the booster dose. Teens 16-17 years old can only get a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster.

last dose in their primary series. Any of the three COVID-19 vaccines can be used for the booster dose.

older. Any of the three COVID-19 vaccines can be used for the booster dose.

**When Fully Vaccinated**  
2 weeks after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose

**When Fully Vaccinated**  
2 weeks after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose

**When Fully Vaccinated**  
2 weeks after 1<sup>st</sup> dose

<sup>1</sup> If you had a severe [allergic reaction](#) 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](#).

<sup>2</sup> 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 or 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 or severely immunocompromised people who are ages 16 years and older can also get [a booster dose](#). People who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna primary series are eligible for a booster dose at least 6 months after their additional primary dose.

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.

Teens ages 16-17 years old can only receive a Pfizer- BioNTech COVID-19 booster shot. People ages 18 years and older have the option to either get the same COVID-19 vaccine product as their primary series, or to get a different COVID-19 vaccine.

## 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](#). 



For Healthcare and Public Health  
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