



COVID-19

COVID-19 Vaccines for People with Underlying Medical Conditions

Updated Dec. 14, 2021

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

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 a COVID-19 vaccine, you should talk to your healthcare provider 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.

Tips for How to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine

- Contact your state or local [health department](#) for more information.
- Ask your doctor, pharmacist, or community health center if they plan to provide vaccines and ask them to let you know when vaccines are available.

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.

Information about COVID-19 Vaccines for People with Underlying Medical Conditions

You can help protect yourself and the people around you by getting a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you can.

- Clinical trials show that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective in people with underlying medical conditions, including those that place them at [increased risk for severe COVID-19 symptoms](#), compared to people without underlying medical conditions.
- A COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with 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.

Booster Shots

Everyone ages 16 years and older who is fully vaccinated can get a booster.

Learn more about who is [eligible for a COVID-19 booster shot](#).

Vaccination Card and Booster Shots

At your first vaccination appointment, you should have received a vaccination card that tells you which COVID-19 vaccine you received, the date you received it, and where you received it. Bring this vaccination card to your [booster dose vaccination appointment](#).

Booster Shots vs. Additional Primary Doses

A [booster shot](#) is administered when a person has completed their vaccine series and protection against the virus has decreased over time. Additional primary doses are administered to people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems. This additional primary dose of an mRNA-COVID-19 vaccine is intended to improve [immunocompromised people's](#) response to their initial vaccine series. Currently, **moderately or severely immunocompromised people** ages 18 years and older who completed their Moderna vaccine primary series **should** plan to get an additional primary dose 28 days after receiving their second shot. **For people** ages 12 years and older who completed their Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine primary series, they **should** also plan to get an additional primary dose 28 days after receiving their second shot.

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.

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](#)

