



COVID-19

COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters

Updated May 6, 2022

What You Need to Know

- COVID-19 vaccine boosters can further enhance or restore protection that might have waned over time after your primary series vaccination.
- People are protected best from severe COVID-19 illness when they [stay up to date](#) with their COVID-19 vaccines, which includes a booster for many people.
- There are different [COVID-19 vaccine recommendations for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised](#).

Choosing Your COVID-19 Booster

Three COVID-19 vaccines are authorized or approved for use in the United States to prevent COVID-19. Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (COVID-19 mRNA vaccines) are preferred. You may get Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine [in some situations](#).

Who Can Get a Booster

ELIGIBLE FOR 1 Booster

Everyone ages 12 years and older can get 1 booster after completing their [COVID-19 vaccine primary series](#).

Learn when you can get your 1st booster below.

ELIGIBLE FOR 2 Boosters

- Adults ages 50 years and older
- People ages 12 years and older who are [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#)
- People who got 2 doses (1 primary dose and 1 booster) of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

Learn when you can get your 2nd booster below and [what you should consider](#).

Adults ages 18 or older

Pfizer-BioNTech



1st Booster:

CDC recommends a booster of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine: ^[1]

- For most people, at least 5 months after the final dose in the primary series
- For people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, at least 3 months after the final dose in the primary series

Up to Date: Immediately after getting 1st booster ^[2]

2nd Booster:

People in the following groups can choose to get a 2nd booster of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine **at least 4 months after the 1st booster:**

- Adults ages 50 years and older
- People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised

Moderna

1st Booster:

CDC recommends a booster of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine: ^[1]

- For most people, at least 5 months after the final dose in the primary series
- For people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, at least 3 months after the final dose in the primary series

Up to Date: Immediately after getting 1st booster ^[2]

2nd Booster:

People in the following groups can choose to get a 2nd booster of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine **at least 4 months after the 1st booster:**

- Adults ages 50 years and older
- People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised

Johnson & Johnson's Janssen

1st Booster:

CDC recommends a booster of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine: ^[1]

- For most people, at least 2 months after the primary dose of J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine
- For people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, at least 2 months after the additional dose of Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

Up to Date: Immediately after getting 1st booster ^[2]

2nd Booster:

People in the following groups can choose to get a 2nd booster of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine **at least 4 months after the 1st booster**:

- Anyone who got a J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine for both their primary dose and booster
- Adults ages 50 years and older
- People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised

Children and teens ages 12–17 years

Pfizer-BioNTech 

1st Booster:

CDC recommends a booster of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine: ^[1]

- For most children and teens, at least 5 months after the final dose in the primary series
- For moderately or severely immunocompromised children and teens, at least 3 months after the final dose in the primary series

Up to Date: Immediately after getting 1st booster ^[2]

2nd Booster:

- Children and teens who are moderately or severely immunocompromised can choose to get a 2nd booster of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months after the 1st booster

Children ages 5–11 years


Pfizer-BioNTech 

Boosters are not recommended for this age group at this time.

¹ If you have completed your primary series—but are not yet eligible for a booster dose—you are also considered up to date. Stay up to date by getting 1 booster when you are eligible. Getting a second booster is not necessary to be considered up to date at this time.

² Although mRNA vaccines are preferred for the first booster, J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine [may be considered in some situations](#).

Getting a 2nd COVID-19 Vaccine Booster

People in certain groups or situations are now eligible to get a 2nd COVID-19 booster. If you are eligible, it is up to you whether to get a 2nd booster right now, based on the benefits and risks of a 2nd booster. Your healthcare provider can help you review your options. Here are [factors](#)  [70 KB, 1 page] to think about as you consider a 2nd booster.

1 Are you eligible?

Right now, you are eligible for a 2nd COVID-19 booster if you:

- Are 50 years of age or older **and** got your 1st booster at least 4 months ago
- Are 12 years of age or older, **and** are [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#), **and** got your 1st booster at least 4 months ago
- Are 18 years of age or older **and** got 2 doses of J&J/Janssen vaccine at least 4 months ago

2 If you are eligible (see above), are you (or is someone you live with) more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 or be exposed to the virus?

Certain factors can make it more likely that someone will get very sick from COVID-19 or be exposed:

- Being moderately or severely immunocompromised
- Being more likely to be exposed to COVID-19 through your job, where you live, or other factors (such as frequent travel or large gatherings)
- Being in an area with medium to high COVID-19 community levels
- Living with someone who is unvaccinated

3 If you are eligible, can you wait?

Even if you are eligible for a 2nd booster, you may consider waiting to get a 2nd booster if you:

- Had COVID-19 within the past 3 months
- Feel that getting a 2nd booster now would make you not want to get another booster in the future (a 2nd booster may be more important in fall of 2022, or if a new vaccine for a future COVID-19 variant becomes available)

If You Get a 2nd Booster

- Make sure it has been at least 4 months since your 1st COVID-19 booster.
- Remember that 2nd boosters can only be Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech (and for people ages 12 to 17 years, only Pfizer-BioNTech).
- You can self-attest that you have a moderately or severely weakened immune system. This means you do not need any documentation that you have a weakened immune system to get a COVID-19 vaccine (including boosters) wherever they are offered.

Scheduling Your Booster

If you need help scheduling your booster, contact the location that set up your previous appointment. If you need to get your booster in a location different from where you received your previous vaccination, there are several ways you can [find a vaccine provider](#).

Find a COVID-19 vaccine or booster: Search [vaccines.gov](#), text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find locations near you.

Related Pages

- › [COVID-19 Vaccine Safety and Monitoring](#)
- › [Understanding How COVID-19 Vaccines Work](#)
- › [Ensuring COVID-19 Vaccines Work](#)

- › [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- › [COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People](#)
- › [People Vaccinated Outside the United States](#)



For Healthcare and Public Health

Considerations for Use of a COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose

More Information

[ACIP Presentation Slides, December 16, 2021](#)

[ACIP Presentation Slides, November 19, 2021](#)

[ACIP Presentation Slides, October 21, 2021](#)

[ACIP Presentation Slides, September 22–23, 2021](#)

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