



COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters

Updated May 12, 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](#).
- It is never too late to get the added protection offered by a COVID-19 booster. [Find a vaccine provider](#).

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



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

COVID-19

- 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

It is never too late to get the added protection offered by a COVID-19 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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