



COVID-19

Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines Including Boosters

Updated Sept. 2, 2022

What You Need to Know

- CDC recommends everyone stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccination, including all primary series doses and boosters for their age group:
 - Ages 6 months through 4 years should get all COVID-19 primary series doses,
 - Ages 5 years and older should get all primary series doses, and updated COVID-19 boosters if eligible.
- Getting a COVID-19 vaccine after you recover from COVID-19 infection provides added protection against COVID-19.
- People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised have [different recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines](#), including boosters.
- For people ages 12 years and older, the only authorized mRNA booster is the updated (bivalent) booster. People ages 12 years and older can no longer get the original (monovalent) mRNA booster.
- [COVID-19 vaccine and booster recommendations](#) may be updated as CDC continues to monitor the latest data.

About COVID-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States are effective at protecting people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying. As with other diseases, you are protected best from COVID-19 when you stay up to date with the recommended vaccines, including recommended boosters.

Four COVID-19 vaccines are approved or authorized in the United States to prevent COVID-19: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Novavax, and Johnson & Johnson's Janssen (J&J/Janssen). It's recommended that the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine only be [considered in some situations](#).

Updated COVID-19 boosters can both help restore protection that has decreased since previous vaccination, and provide broader protection against newer variants. The updated, or bivalent boosters, target the most recent Omicron subvariants, BA.4 and BA.5, that are more contagious and more resistant than earlier strains of Omicron.

When Are You Up to Date?

You are [up to date](#) with your COVID-19 vaccines if you have completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series and received the most recent booster dose recommended for you by CDC.

Vaccine recommendations are based on your age, the vaccine you first received, and time since last dose. People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised have [different recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines](#).

Find Out When You Can Get Your Booster



Boosters are an important part of protecting yourself from getting seriously ill or dying from COVID-19. They are recommended for most people.

Use this tool to determine when or if you (or your child) can get one or more COVID-19 boosters.

[Find Out When to Get a Booster >](#)

This tool is intended to help you make decisions about getting COVID-19 vaccinations. It should not be used to diagnose or treat COVID-19.

Children and teens ages 6 months–17 years

COVID-19 vaccine dosage is based on age on the day of vaccination, not on size or weight. Children get a smaller dose of COVID-19 vaccine than teens and adults based on the age group they belong to.

Pfizer-BioNTech

AGE GROUP

6 MONTHS–4 YEARS

1st Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

3–8 weeks after 1st dose [\[1\]](#)

3rd Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

At least 8 weeks after 2nd dose

Up to Date: 2 weeks after 3rd dose, since a booster is not recommended for this age group at this time [\[2\]](#)

AGE GROUP

5–11 YEARS

1st Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

3–8 weeks after 1st dose [\[1\]](#)

3rd Dose

BOOSTER

At least 5 months after 2nd dose

Up to Date: Immediately after 3rd dose [\[2\]](#)

AGE GROUP

12–17 YEARS

1st Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

3–8 weeks after 1st dose [\[1\]](#)

3rd Dose

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 2nd dose or last booster, and can only be Pfizer-BioNTech

Up to Date: Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you [\[2\]](#)

Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine Overview >

Moderna



AGE GROUP

6 MONTHS–11 YEARS

1st Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

4–8 weeks after 1st dose [\[1\]](#)

Up to Date: 2 weeks after 2nd dose, since a booster is not currently recommended for children or teens in this age group who have received the Moderna primary series [\[2\]](#)

AGE GROUP

12–17 YEARS

1st Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

4–8 weeks after 1st dose [\[1\]](#)

3rd Dose

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 2nd dose, and can only be Pfizer-BioNTech

Up to Date: Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you [\[2\]](#)

Moderna Vaccine Overview >

Novavax



AGE GROUP

12-17 YEARS

1st Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

3-8 weeks after 1st dose ^[1]

3rd Dose

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 2nd dose,
and can only be Pfizer-BioNTech

Up to Date: Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you ^[2]

[Novavax Vaccine Overview >](#)

Adults ages 18 years and older

Pfizer-BioNTech



AGE GROUP

18-49 YEARS

1st Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

3-8 weeks after 1st dose ^[1]

3rd Dose

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 2nd dose
or last booster, and can be
Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna

Up to Date: Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you ^[2]

AGE GROUP

50 YEARS AND OLDER

1st Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

3-8 weeks after 1st dose ^[1]

3rd Dose

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 2nd dose
or last booster, and can be
Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna

Up to Date: Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you ^[2]

Moderna

AGE GROUP

18-49 YEARS

1st Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

4-8 weeks after 1st dose ^[1]

3rd Dose

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 2nd dose or last booster, and can be Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna

Up to Date: Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you ^[2]

AGE GROUP

50 YEARS AND OLDER

1st Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

4-8 weeks after 1st dose ^[1]

3rd Dose

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 2nd dose or last booster, and can be Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna

Novavax

AGE GROUP

18 YEARS AND OLDER

1st Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

3-8 weeks after 1st dose ^[1]

3rd Dose

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 2nd dose, and can be Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna

Up to Date: Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you ^[2]

Johnson & Johnson's Janssen



AGE GROUP

18-49 YEARS

1st Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 1st dose or last booster, and can be Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna

Up to Date: Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you ^[2]

AGE GROUP

50 YEARS AND OLDER

1st Dose

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 1st dose and can be Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna

3rd Dose

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 2nd dose or last booster, and should be Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna

Up to Date: Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you ^[2]

[J&J/Janssen Vaccine Overview >](#)

¹ Talk to your healthcare or vaccine provider about the timing for the 2nd dose in your primary series.

- **People ages 6 months through 64 years, and especially males ages 12 through 39 years**, may consider getting the 2nd primary dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) 8 weeks after the 1st dose.
 - A longer time between the 1st and 2nd primary doses may increase how much protection the vaccines offer, and further minimize the rare risk of [myocarditis and pericarditis](#).
- **Anyone wanting protection due to high levels of community transmission, people ages 65 years and older, or people who are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19**, should get the second dose of:
 - **Pfizer-BioNTech** COVID-19 vaccine **3 weeks (or 21 days)** after the first dose.
 - **Moderna** COVID-19 vaccine **4 weeks (or 28 days)** after the first dose.
 - **Novavax** COVID-19 vaccine **3 weeks (or 21 days)** after the first dose.

² If you have completed your primary series, but are not yet eligible for a booster, you are also considered up to date.

Mixing COVID-19 Vaccine Products

Primary series

CDC does not recommend mixing products for your primary series doses. If you received Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Novavax for the first dose of your primary series, you should get the same product for all following primary series doses.

Boosters

- People ages 18 years and older may get a different product for a booster than they got for their primary series, as long as it's Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna.
- Teens ages 12-17 years may get a different product for a booster than they got for their primary series, as long as it's Pfizer-BioNTech.
- Children ages 5 through 11 years who got a Pfizer-BioNTech primary series must also get Pfizer-BioNTech for a booster.
- People ages 12 years and older may only get the updated (bivalent) mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) booster. They can no longer get an original (monovalent) mRNA booster.
- Novavax is not authorized for use as a booster dose at this time.



Learn about Getting Your Vaccine

- Do you need to wait to get vaccinated after infection or getting treatment?
- How can you prepare?
- What can you expect during and after your vaccination?

Getting Your COVID-19 Vaccine

Vaccination Outside the United States

Specific recommendations for people vaccinated outside of the United States depend on whether:

- The vaccine(s) received are accepted in the United States
- The primary series was completed and, if eligible, a booster dose was received

These recommendations apply only to people who are not moderately or severely immunocompromised.

COVID-19 vaccines abroad that are accepted in the United States



Vaccines approved or authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) currently include:

- Pfizer-BioNTech
- Moderna
- Novavax
- Johnson & Johnson's Janssen

Vaccines listed for emergency use by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)  currently include those that are listed above and the following:

- AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine [↗](#)
- Sinopharm [↗](#)
- Sinovac [↗](#)
- COVAXIN [↗](#)
- Covovax [↗](#)
- CanSino [↗](#)

If You Receive a Vaccine That is Not in the Accepted List Above

Wait at least 28 days after getting the last dose of that vaccine to start COVID-19 vaccination over with a COVID-19 vaccine that has been approved or authorized by the FDA.

There may be limited data available on the safety or effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines that the FDA has not approved or authorized.

How to Complete a Primary Series

- Receive 1 dose of a single-dose accepted COVID-19 vaccine
- Receive 2 doses (or [any combination](#) [↗](#)) of a 2-dose accepted COVID-19 vaccine

CDC does not recommend mixing different COVID-19 vaccines for the primary series but is aware that this is increasingly common in many countries outside of the United States. Therefore, for the interpretation of vaccination records, people who receive a mixed primary series have completed the series.

If You Start but Don't Complete a Primary Series

- Get 1 dose of Moderna, Novavax, or Pfizer-BioNTech and you'll be considered to have completed a primary series
- If the 1st dose in the primary series you started was of Moderna, Novavax, or Pfizer-BioNTech, its best to get the same vaccine again to complete the series

After Completing a Primary Series

If you are not yet eligible for a booster, you are considered up to date. Otherwise, stay up to date by getting the most recent booster recommended for you.

Learn more about [recommendations for vaccinations outside of the United States](#) and talk to your healthcare provider if you have questions.

Proof of vaccination card in the United States



The white CDC [COVID-19 vaccination cards](#) are issued only to people vaccinated in the United States. CDC recommends that people vaccinated outside of the United States keep their documentation of being vaccinated in another country as proof of vaccination. CDC does not keep vaccination records nor determine how vaccination records are used. People can update their records with vaccines they received while outside of the United States by:

- Contacting the [immunization information system \(IIS\)](#) in their state.
- Contacting their healthcare provider or local or state immunization program through their [state's health department](#).

Learn more about [COVID-19 vaccination cards](#).

Resources

Related Pages

- › [COVID-19 Vaccine Safety and Monitoring](#)
- › [Possibility of COVID-19 after Vaccination: Breakthrough Infections](#)



For Healthcare and Public Health

[Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States: Interim Clinical Considerations](#)

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