



COVID-19

Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines Including Boosters

Updated Mar. 2, 2023

What You Need to Know

- CDC recommends everyone stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines for their age group:
 - [Children and teens aged 6 months–17 years](#)
 - [Adults aged 18 years and older](#)
- Getting a COVID-19 vaccine after you have recovered from COVID-19 infection provides added protection against COVID-19.
- People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised have [different recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines](#).
- COVID-19 vaccine and booster recommendations may be updated as CDC continues to monitor the latest COVID-19 data.



Updated Boosters Are Recommended

CDC recommends **1 updated booster dose**:

- For everyone [aged 5 years and older](#) who completed their primary series.
- For children [aged 6 months–4 years](#) who **completed the Moderna** primary series.

There is no booster recommendation for children aged 6 months–4 years who got the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine primary series.

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. People ages 6 months and older should receive 1 updated booster, if they are eligible, including those who are moderately or severely immunocompromised.

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

People who did not receive Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Novavax, or Johnson & Johnson's Janssen, like [people who were vaccinated abroad](#), have specific recommendations.

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, have specific recommendations.

[Scroll for More v](#)

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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 vaccine-preventable diseases, you are protected best from COVID-19 when you stay up to date with the recommended vaccinations, including recommended boosters.

Four COVID-19 vaccines are approved or authorized in the United States:

- Pfizer-BioNTech
- Moderna
- Novavax
- Johnson & Johnson's Janssen (J&J/Janssen) (CDC recommends that the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine only be [considered in certain situations](#), due to safety concerns.)

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

COVID-19 Boosters

Updated Boosters

The updated boosters are called "updated" because they protect against **both** the original virus that causes COVID-19 **and** the Omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5. Two COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers, Pfizer and Moderna, have developed updated COVID-19 boosters.

Updated COVID-19 boosters became available on:

- September 2, 2022, for people aged 12 years and older
- October 12, 2022, for people aged 5–11 years
- December 9, 2022, for children aged 6 months–4 years who completed the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine primary series

If you have received your updated booster dose, you are currently up to date. There is not a recommendation to get another updated booster dose.

Original Boosters



Previous boosters are called “original” because they were designed to protect against the original virus that causes COVID-19. They also provide some protection against Omicron, but not as much as the updated boosters.

When Are You Up to Date?

You are **up to date** with your COVID-19 vaccines when you have completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series and got the most recent booster dose recommended for you by CDC.

- If you have completed your primary series—but are not yet eligible for a booster—you are also considered up to date.
- If you become ill with COVID-19 after you received all COVID-19 vaccine doses recommended for you, you are also considered up to date. You do not need to be revaccinated or receive an additional booster.

COVID-19 vaccine recommendations are based on three things:

1. Your age
2. The vaccine you first received, and
3. The length of time since your last dose

People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised have [different recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines](#).



For Healthcare Workers: Learn more about [COVID-19 vaccine schedules](#).

Getting Vaccines If You Had or Currently Have COVID-19

If you recently had COVID-19, you still need to stay up to date with your vaccines, but you **may** consider delaying your next vaccine dose (whether a primary dose or booster) by 3 months from:

- when your symptoms started.
- Or, if you had no symptoms, when you first received a positive test.

Reinfection is less likely in the weeks to months after infection. However, certain factors could be reasons to get a vaccine sooner rather than later, such as:

- personal risk of severe disease,
- or risk of disease in a loved one or close contact,
- local [COVID-19 Community Level](#),
- and the most common [COVID-19 variant](#) currently causing illness.

Children and teens aged 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.



AGE GROUP

6 MONTHS–4 YEARS

1st Dose Pfizer-BioNTech PRIMARY SERIES	2nd Dose Pfizer-BioNTech PRIMARY SERIES 3–8 weeks after 1st dose More details: Getting your 2nd dose	3rd Dose Pfizer-BioNTech UPDATED PRIMARY SERIES At least 8 weeks after 2nd dose
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Up to Date: 2 weeks after 3rd dose; there is not a recommendation for an updated Pfizer-BioNTech booster for this age group

More details: [Staying up to date](#)

AGE GROUP

5–11 YEARS

1st Dose Pfizer-BioNTech PRIMARY SERIES	2nd Dose Pfizer-BioNTech PRIMARY SERIES 3–8 weeks after 1st dose More details: Getting your 2nd dose	3rd Dose Pfizer-BioNTech UPDATED BOOSTER At least 2 months after 2nd dose or last booster, children aged 5 years can only get a Pfizer-BioNTech booster, and children aged 6–11 years can get a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna booster.
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Up to Date: Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you

More details: [Staying up to date](#)

AGE GROUP

12–17 YEARS

1st Dose Pfizer-BioNTech PRIMARY SERIES	2nd Dose Pfizer-BioNTech PRIMARY SERIES 3–8 weeks after 1st dose More details: Getting your 2nd dose	3rd Dose Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna UPDATED BOOSTER At least 2 months after 2nd dose or last booster
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Up to Date: Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you

More details: [Staying up to date](#)

Moderna

AGE GROUP

6 MONTHS–5 YEARS

1st Dose

Moderna

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

Moderna

PRIMARY SERIES

4–8 weeks after 1st dose

More details: [Getting your 2nd dose](#)

3rd Dose

Moderna

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 2nd Moderna dose, children aged 6 months–4 years **can only get a Moderna booster**, and children aged 5 years can get a **Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna updated booster**.

Up to Date: Immediately after receiving an updated booster
More details: [Staying up to date](#)

AGE GROUP

6–17 YEARS

1st Dose

Moderna

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

Moderna

PRIMARY SERIES

4–8 weeks after 1st dose

More details: [Getting your 2nd dose](#)

3rd Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 2nd primary series dose

Up to Date: Immediately after receiving an updated booster
More details: [Staying up to date](#)

Novavax

AGE GROUP

12-17 YEARS

Novavax is not authorized as a booster dose at this time.

1st Dose

2nd Dose

3rd Dose

Novavax
PRIMARY SERIES

Novavax
PRIMARY SERIES
3-8 weeks after 1st dose
More details: [Getting your 2nd dose](#)

Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna
UPDATED BOOSTER
At least 2 months after 2nd
primary series dose

Up to Date: Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you
More details: [Staying up to date](#)

Novavax Vaccine Overview

Adults aged 18 years and older

Pfizer-BioNTech



AGE GROUP

18 YEARS AND OLDER

1st Dose
Pfizer-BioNTech
PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose
Pfizer-BioNTech
PRIMARY SERIES
3-8 weeks after 1st dose
More details: [Getting your 2nd dose](#)

3rd Dose
Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna
UPDATED BOOSTER
At least 2 months after 2nd
primary series dose or last
booster

Up to Date: Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you
More details: [Staying up to date](#)

Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine Overview

Moderna



AGE GROUP

18 YEARS AND OLDER

1st Dose
Moderna
PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose
Moderna
PRIMARY SERIES
4-8 weeks after 1st dose
More details: [Getting your 2nd dose](#)

3rd Dose
Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna
UPDATED BOOSTER
At least 2 months after 2nd
primary series dose or last
booster

Up to Date: Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you
More details: [Staying up to date](#)

Moderna Vaccine Overview

Novavax



AGE GROUP

18 YEARS AND OLDER

1st Dose
Novavax
PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose
Novavax
PRIMARY SERIES
3–8 weeks after 1st dose
More details: [Getting your 2nd dose](#)

3rd Dose
Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna
UPDATED BOOSTER
At least 2 months after 2nd
primary series dose

A Novavax booster is available in
limited situations.
More details: [Novavax booster](#)

Up to Date: Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you
More details: [Staying up to date](#)

Novavax Vaccine Overview

Johnson and Johnson’s Janssen



AGE GROUP

18 YEARS AND OLDER

1st Dose
J&J/Janssen
PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose
Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna
UPDATED BOOSTER
At least 2 months after 2nd
primary series dose

A J&J/Janssen booster is available
in limited situations.
More details: [J&J/Janssen booster](#)

Up to Date: Immediately after you have received the most recent booster recommended for you
More details: [Staying up to date](#)

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

- **People aged 6 months through 64 years, and especially males aged 12 through 39 years,** may consider getting the 2nd primary Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Novavax 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 aged 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.

Novavax booster: You may get a Novavax booster **if** you are unable or unwilling to receive a Pfizer or Moderna updated COVID-19 booster **and** you meet the following requirements:

- You are 18 years of age or older
- You completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series at least 6 months ago
- You have **not** gotten any other booster dose

One updated booster dose: If you have completed your updated booster dose, you are currently up to date. There is not a recommendation to get another updated booster dose.

Staying up to date: 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

Do Not Mix 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.

Mixing Boosters

The following information applies to people who want to get different products for their booster vaccine.

Children aged 6 months–4 years



Children aged 6 months–4 years should get the same product for all their primary series and booster, if eligible.

However, children who only completed 2 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines should get the Pfizer-BioNTech updated vaccine as the 3rd dose in their primary series.

Children aged 6 months–4 years who completed the 2-dose Moderna primary series should get an updated Moderna booster.

People aged 5 years and older



Children aged 5 who completed the Pfizer-BioNTech primary series should only get the updated Pfizer-BioNTech booster.

Children aged 5 who completed the Moderna primary series can get a different product for their updated booster than they got for their primary series.

People ages 6 years and older can get a different product for their updated booster than they got for their primary series or last booster.



Learn About Getting Your Vaccine

- Do you need to wait to get vaccinated after getting COVID-19 or getting treatment for COVID-19?
- How can you prepare for vaccination?
- What can you expect during and after your vaccination?

Getting Your COVID-19 Vaccine

Vaccination Received Outside the United States

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

- The vaccine(s) received are accepted in the United States as valid vaccinations
- 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 available abroad that are accepted in the United States as valid vaccinations



[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 U.S. Accepted List Above

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

- If the FDA has not approved or authorized a vaccine there may be limited data available or reviewed on the safety or effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine.

How to Complete a Primary Series

- Receive 1 dose of a single-dose accepted COVID-19 vaccine
- Receive 2 doses of a 2-dose accepted COVID-19 vaccine

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

If You Started But Didn't Complete a Primary Series

- You will need to complete the primary series. If you got 1 dose of Moderna, Novavax, or Pfizer-BioNTech, it is best to get the same vaccine again to complete the primary 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 booster recommended for you as soon as a booster is recommended for you based on your age and the appropriate time has passed since completing the primary series.

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](#).

For Healthcare Workers: Learn more about the recommendations for [people vaccinated outside of the United States](#).



For Healthcare and Public Health

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

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