Visiting our COVID-19 page for the latest updates, vaccine information, testing locations, and data dashboard.

Vaccine Booster Doses

Booster doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine are recommended for certain at-risk groups.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup recommend the following groups should get a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 Vaccine at least 6 months after completing the Pfizer-BioNTech primary series (first 2 doses):

- People 65 years of age and older
- Adults 18 years and older living in long-term care settings
- People aged 50 to 64 with underlying medical conditions

The CDC and the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup also recommend the following groups may get a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 Vaccine at least 6 months after completing the Pfizer-BioNTech primary series (first 2 doses), based on their individual benefits and risks:

- People 18 to 49 who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 due to certain underlying medical conditions
- People aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can get a booster shot?

Only certain groups who got the initial series (first two doses) of the Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine can get a booster shot.

COVID-19 Vaccine booster shots are available for the following groups who completed their initial Pfizer-BioNTech series at least six months ago:

- 65 years and older
- 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- 18+ who work in high-risk settings
- 18+ who live in high-risk setting

Why aren't booster doses recommended for people who got the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine?

Booster doses might be recommended in the future for those who received COVID-19 vaccines manufactured by Moderna or Johnson & Johnson, but right now there isn't enough research to make that call. More data on the effectiveness and safety of these booster shots are expected in the coming weeks. We will keep you updated as we know more.

Why are booster doses recommended for some groups?

Booster doses will help provide continued protection against severe disease for populations at high risk for severe COVID-19. This is especially important with the rise of the delta variant and cases of COVID-19 increasing across the United States.

The COVID-19 vaccines authorized or approved in the United States are still very effective at reducing the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19, even against the delta variant. Still, the current vaccines may be associated with a drop in protection over time. Booster vaccines will increase vaccine-induced protection against COVID-19 and help immunity last longer.

Are you still vaccinating people with first and second doses?

Yes. Getting everyone who is eligible vaccinated with a primary series (1 dose of Johnson & Johnson's COVID vaccine or 2 doses of Pfizer's or Moderna's) is still a top priority. Hospitalization rates are 10 to 22 times higher in unvaccinated adults compared to vaccinated adults. People who are vaccinated are significantly less likely to get seriously sick (or sick at all) from COVID-19, compared to those who are unvaccinated.

If we need booster shots, does that mean that the vaccines aren't working?

No. The current COVID-19 vaccines we have in the U.S. are working well to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death, even against the delta variant. However, public health experts are seeing reduced protection against mild and moderate COVID-19 illness, especially among high-risk populations.

If I don't get a booster dose, am I still fully vaccinated?

People are still considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the J&J/Janssen vaccine. This definition applies to all people, including those who receive an additional dose as recommended for moderately to severely immunocompromised people, and those who receive a booster shot.

How do I show that I'm eligible for a booster dose?

To prevent access barriers, you can self-report that you are eligible for a booster. You do not need to show a recommendation from a health care provider.

Please take your vaccination card to your booster dose appointment so the provider can first confirm that you've completed the 2-dose Pfizer vaccine series. If you don't have your card, the provider can look up your record.

Booster dose recommendations only apply for at-risk groups who got the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.