Who are COVID-19 vaccine booster doses recommended for?

Recommendations for booster dose(s) vary based on age, primary series vaccine, and whether a person is immunocompromised. If you are due for a booster, it is recommended that you get one now, rather than wait for new vaccines to become available.

For the best protection against COVID-19, the CDC recommends that everyone age 5 years and older should get 1 booster after completing their COVID-19 vaccine primary series, if eligible, specifically:

- Everyone ages 18 and older who had a primary series of Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine should get 1 booster dose.
- Children age 5-17 who received the Pfizer vaccine for their primary series should get 1 booster dose.

Note: The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children 6 months-4 years and the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for children 6 months-17 years were only recently authorized for use in these age groups, so it is too soon to know when a booster dose will be needed. People who receive a primary series of Novavax vaccine are not eligible for a booster at this time.

In addition, some people should get a 2nd booster. (See Who can get a 2nd booster? below).

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine booster is important because it strengthens your immunity. This gives you better protection from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and even dying.

Learn more at CDC webpage COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters.

When am I eligible to receive a booster dose?

If you are age 18 and over, you are eligible for a booster dose:

- 5 months after the last dose of your Moderna or Pfizer vaccine primary series, or
- 2 months after a single dose of Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine.

The booster dose may be Pfizer, Moderna, or J&J COVID-19 vaccine, but Pfizer or Moderna are preferred.

If you are age 5-17 and you got the Pfizer vaccine primary series, you are eligible for a booster dose of Pfizer vaccine:

- 5 months after the last dose of Pfizer.

If you are moderately or severely immunocompromised, you should get your booster dose sooner. See the CDC webpage COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised People to learn more.

If you have not gotten your first booster dose yet and you are due, now is the time to get your booster.

Note: The Novavax vaccine is not authorized for use as a booster dose. Visit the CDC interactive Getting your COVID-19 Booster tool to help determine if you (or your child) can get one or more COVID-19 boosters.
Talk to your doctor if you have questions.

**Who can get a second booster dose?**

The following people are eligible to get a 2nd COVID-19 booster if it has been *at least 4 months* since their 1<sup>st</sup> booster. Those who are:

- Age 50 and older
- Age 12 and older who are *moderately or severely immunocompromised*
- Age 18-49 who received J&J for both their primary dose and booster dose

If you are age 50 and older or if you are age 12 and older and are *moderately or severely immunocompromised* (and it has been 4 months since your 1<sup>st</sup> booster) you **should** get your 2<sup>nd</sup> booster now to remain up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines. It is important to note COVID-19 rates are rising, and you are at higher risk of getting seriously ill if you get COVID-19.

If you are age 18-49 and you received J&J for both your primary dose and booster dose (and it has been 4 months since your first booster) you **may** get a 2nd booster. The second booster dose is not required to be considered up to date. If you are a **higher risk** of getting sick from COVID-19, get your 2<sup>nd</sup> booster now. If you are healthy and have limited exposures to others, then you can consider waiting.

If you received a primary series of Novavax vaccine, you are not eligible for any booster at this time.

Note: The Novavax vaccine is not authorized for use as a booster dose. See the CDC webpage [COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/covid-19/booster.html) for more information.

Visit the CDC interactive [Getting your COVID-19 Booster](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/covid-19/booster.html) tool to help determine if you (or your child) can get a 2<sup>nd</sup> booster.

Talk to your doctor if you have questions.

**What are the risks of getting a booster?**

Reactions after booster doses are like those after primary doses. Most side effects are mild to moderate and last 2 days or less. As with the primary series, serious side effects are rare. For more details, visit the CDC webpage [Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/covid-19/booster.html). The benefits of getting a booster dose outweigh any known and potential risks.

**Will I need to show a doctor’s note or prescription to get a booster dose?**

No, you do not need a doctor’s note or prescription to get a booster dose. You can self-attest (self-report) if you are eligible. When you go to the location, take proof of vaccination such as your CDC white card or digital vaccination record. Visit the Public Health [How to Get Vaccinated](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/covid-19/booster.html) webpage for more information.
Where can I get more information?

- To print or view this FAQ or FAQs on other COVID-19 vaccine topics, scan the QR code or visit COVID-19 vaccine FAQs.
- CDC webpage COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses
- VaccinateLACounty.com – including COVID-19 Vaccine Schedules with graphics to show when each dose is due and information on How to Get Vaccinated.
- Talk to your doctor if you have questions.