To view these and other vaccine FAQs online, visit the COVID-19 vaccine webpage.

Who are COVID-19 vaccine booster doses recommended for?

For the best protection against COVID-19, the CDC recommends that everyone age 18 and older should get one booster dose. Children age 5-17 who received the Pfizer vaccine for their primary series should get a booster dose. In addition, some people should get a 2nd booster. (See Who can get a 2nd booster? below). The Moderna vaccine has only recently been authorized for children ages 5 to 17 years of age, so it is too soon to know when a booster dose will be needed.

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.

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.

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 any 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:

- 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.

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 1st 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 first booster) you should get your 2nd 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 2nd booster now. If you are healthy and have limited exposures to others, then you can consider waiting.

See the CDC webpage COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters for more information.

Visit the CDC interactive Getting your COVID-19 Booster tool to help determine if you (or your child) can get a 2nd 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. 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 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.