



COVID-19 Vaccines - Frequently Asked Questions

BOOSTER DOSES



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.

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





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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.