



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?

The CDC recommends that everyone age 12 and older get a booster dose for the best protection against COVID-19. In addition, some people at higher risk can choose to get a 2nd booster. (See [Who can get a 2nd booster?](#) below). Booster doses are not currently authorized for children 5-11 years of age.

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.

When am I eligible for a booster dose?

- If you are age 12 and over, you are eligible for a booster dose:
 - 2 months after a single dose of Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine, or
 - 5 months after the 2nd dose of Moderna or Pfizer vaccine.

The booster dose may be any COVID-19 vaccine, but Pfizer or Moderna are preferred. Children ages 12-17 can only get a Pfizer booster.

- 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 received a vaccine series outside the US, see the CDC webpage [COVID-19 Vaccines for People Vaccinated Outside the United States](#) to see when you are eligible for a booster dose.

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:

- Age 50 and older
- Age 18-49 and received both a J&J primary dose *and* J&J booster dose
- Age 12 and older and [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#)

Please ask your doctor if you have questions about whether you should get a second booster dose.

When should I get a second booster dose?

If you are in one of the groups who can get a 2nd booster, you can choose to get it right now or to wait. Consider your situation and the risks and benefits. Your doctor can help you review your options. You do not need a 2nd booster dose to be considered [up to date](#) on your COVID-19 vaccines at this time.

Certain factors can make it more likely that you could get very sick from COVID-19. If you are eligible for a second booster, it may be helpful to get it *now* if you are (or if someone you live with is):

- Moderately or severely immunocompromised
- [More likely to get very sick from COVID-19](#)



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- More likely to be exposed to COVID-19 through your job, where you live, or other factors (such as traveling often or participating in large gatherings)
- In an area with substantial to high COVID-19 transmission levels
- If someone you live with is unvaccinated

You may consider *waiting* to get a 2nd booster if you:

- Had COVID-19 within the past 3 months
- Are healthy and have limited exposures to others

See the CDC webpage [Getting a 2nd COVID-19 Vaccine Booster](#) for more information. 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.