



COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTER SHOT FAQs



Why do I need a COVID-19 vaccine booster?

COVID-19 vaccines continue to decrease the risk of getting sick, ending up in the hospital, or dying because of COVID-19. Public health experts however are starting to see less protection against getting sick from COVID-19 because of the Delta and Omicron variants. The purpose of booster vaccines is to keep a high level of protection against COVID-19 infection. Booster doses are common for vaccines targeting many other different types of diseases too.

People not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 should get their first series of vaccines to decrease the risk of these bad outcomes. The best way to protect yourself and your loved ones is to get vaccinated. Being vaccinated will reduce your own risk of getting sick and will help protect your community against spreading the virus and possibly causing the virus to mutate into more dangerous forms.



Which vaccine has been approved for a COVID-19 vaccine booster?

As of October 21, **all three COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen) have been authorized for booster doses by the FDA and CDC.**

Eligible people can choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. The FDA and CDC have authorized “mix and match” booster doses, meaning that you can get a booster dose of any of the three available COVID-19 vaccines (no matter which vaccine you previously got).

That said, the only booster authorized for adolescents ages 12-17 is the Pfizer booster.



Who is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine booster?

Everyone ages 12 and older should get a booster shot when they are eligible (see below).



Where do I get the COVID-19 vaccine booster?

The CDC's Vaccine Finder Tool helps people find and make vaccine appointments: [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).



When can I get my COVID-19 vaccine booster?

If you were fully vaccinated with Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna you can get your booster at least 5 months after getting your second dose.

Those who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and received:

- an mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) primary series should get a booster dose 3 months after getting an additional dose.
- a J&J primary series should get a booster dose 2 months after getting an additional dose.

To find a vaccine provider, visit [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

NEXT STEPS: HOW DO I GET THE VACCINE?

The CDC's Vaccine Finder Tool helps individuals find and schedule a vaccine appt: [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).