



# COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTER SHOT FAQs



## Why do I need a COVID-19 booster vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccines continue to decrease the risk of getting sick, ending up in the hospital, or dying because of COVID-19, including from the Delta variant. Public health experts however are starting to see less protection against getting sick from COVID-19 for certain types of people because of the Delta variant. 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.

Right now, almost all the worst cases COVID-19, including when people end up in the hospital or die from COVID-19 happen to people who are not fully vaccinated. 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).



## Who is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine booster?

For people who got the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups can get a booster shot **at least six months after their initial series:**

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in [long-term care settings](#)
- Age 18+ who have [underlying medical conditions](#)
- Age 18+ who work or live in [high-risk settings](#)

For ALL people who got the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine, booster shots are recommended for those who are 18 and older and were vaccinated **at least two months ago.**



## Where do I get the COVID-19 vaccine booster?

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



## When can I get my COVID-19 vaccine booster?

If you got the two-dose Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine and fall into one of the eligible groups listed above, you can get your booster at least six months after getting your second dose.

If you got the one-dose Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine, you can get your booster at least two months after getting your first dose. To find a vaccine provider, visit [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](#).