



Health Alert Network Message 21-76: CDC Recommendation for Booster Shots for Some Fully Vaccinated People

Origination Date:
October 22, 2021

Revision Dates (List All Revision Dates):

CDC recommendation for booster shots for some people who are fully vaccinated with the Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson and Johnson vaccines

Today, CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., endorsed the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation for a booster shot of COVID-19 vaccines in certain populations. The [Food and Drug Administration's \(FDA\) authorization](#) and CDC's recommendation for use are important steps forward as we work to stay ahead of the virus and keep Americans safe.

For individuals who received a **Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine**, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at 6 months or more 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 the nearly 15 million people who got the **Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine**, booster shots are also recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated two or more months ago.

There are now booster recommendations for all three available COVID-19 vaccines in the United States. **Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose.** Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type that they originally received and others, may prefer to get a different booster. CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix-and-match dosing for booster shots.

Millions of people are newly eligible to receive a booster shot and will benefit from additional protection. However, today's action should not distract from the critical work of ensuring that unvaccinated people take the first step and get an initial COVID-19 vaccine. More than 65 million Americans remain unvaccinated, leaving themselves – and their children, families, loved ones, and communities– vulnerable.

Available data right now show that all three of the [COVID-19 vaccines approved or authorized in the United States](#) continue to be [highly effective](#) in reducing risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, even against the widely circulating [Delta variant](#). Vaccination remains the best way to protect yourself and reduce the spread of the virus and help prevent new variants from emerging.

The following is attributable to Dr. Walensky:

“These recommendations are another example of our fundamental commitment to protect as many people as possible from COVID-19. The evidence shows that all three COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States are safe – as demonstrated by the over 400 million vaccine doses already given. And, they are all highly effective in reducing the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, even in the midst of the widely circulating Delta variant.”

Clinical Considerations:

Moderna Booster

A single booster (half) dose of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (0.25 mL) may be administered as a heterologous booster dose following completion of primary vaccination with another authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine. The eligible population(s) and dosing interval for the heterologous booster dose are the same as those authorized for a booster dose of the vaccine used for primary vaccination.

For the most recent Moderna Fact Sheet with booster information added, please see <https://www.fda.gov/media/144637/download>

Janssen (Johnson and Johnson) Booster

A single Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine booster dose (0.5 mL) may be administered at least 2 months after primary vaccination with the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine, to individuals 18 years of age and older.

A single booster dose of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine (0.5 mL) may be administered as a heterologous booster dose following completion of primary vaccination with another authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine. The eligible population(s) and dosing interval for the heterologous booster dose are the same as those authorized for a booster dose of the vaccine used for primary vaccination.

For the most recent Johnson & Johnson Fact Sheet with booster information added, please see <https://www.fda.gov/media/146304/download>

Pfizer Booster

A single booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine (0.3 mL) may be administered as a heterologous booster dose following completion of primary vaccination with another authorized COVID-19 vaccine. The eligible population(s) and dosing interval for the heterologous booster dose are the same as those authorized for a booster dose of the vaccine used for primary vaccination.

For the most recent Pfizer Fact Sheet with booster information added, please see <https://www.fda.gov/media/144413/download>

Mix-and-Match Details

A single booster dose of any of the available COVID-19 vaccines may be administered as a heterologous booster dose following completion of primary vaccination with a different available COVID-19 vaccine. The eligible population(s) and dosing interval for a heterologous booster

dose are the same as those authorized for a booster dose of the vaccine used for primary vaccination.

For example, Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine recipients 18 years of age and older may receive a single booster dose of Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine, Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (half dose) or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine at least two months after receiving their Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine primary vaccination.

In another example, Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine recipients falling into one of the authorized categories for boosters (65 years of age and older, 18 through 64 years of age at high-risk of severe COVID-19, and 18 through 64 years of age with frequent institutional or occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2) may receive a booster dose of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (half dose), Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine or Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine at least six months after completing their primary vaccination.

Updated Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) sheets can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/eua/index.html>

Pfizer: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download>

Moderna: <https://www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/eua-fact-sheet-recipients.pdf>

Janssen: <https://www.janssenlabels.com/emergency-use-authorization/Janssen+COVID-19+Vaccine-Recipient-fact-sheet.pdf>

If you have questions, please contact la.immunization@la.gov