



COVID-19 Booster Shots Fact Sheet

Recently, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) approved a COVID-19 Booster shot for all individuals over the age of 12. When you are eligible will depend on which vaccine you initially got, and when you got your last shot. This fact sheet will provide information about when adults are eligible to receive a COVID-19 booster shot.

There are different eligibility guidelines depending on which vaccine you initially received. If you are 12 or older and received a two-dose regime of the Pfizer, you are eligible for a booster shot five months after your second dose. [1]

If you are 18 or older and received a two-dose regime of the Moderna vaccine, you are eligible for a booster shot five months after your second dose.

[1] The CDC advises that people who are severely immunocompromised, such as those who have received organ transplants or who are undergoing cancer treatment and have received either a two-dose regime of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine should receive a third dose of the vaccine. However, this is NOT considered a booster shot and is instead the standard regime for patients who are immunocompromised. Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html> for more information.

If you were vaccinated with one-dose of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine, booster shots are recommended for everyone ages 18 and older who was vaccinated two or more months ago.

If you are eligible, you may choose which vaccine you receive as a booster dose. Some people may prefer the vaccine type that they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different booster. CDC's recommendations allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

Booster Shots Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who should get a booster shot five months after their second dose of Pfizer or Moderna?

A: The CDC recommends that everyone over the age of 18 people who were originally vaccinated with Moderna should get a booster shot at least five months after receiving their last dose.

The CDC recommends that everyone over the age of 12 people who were originally vaccinated with Pfizer should get a booster shot at least five months after receiving their last dose.

Q: Who should get a booster shot at least 2 months after getting the one dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine?

A: If you were vaccinated with one-dose of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine, booster shots are recommended for anyone age 18 and older who was vaccinated two or more months ago. This means that anyone who was vaccinated with the J&J vaccine is now eligible for a booster shot, assuming it has been more than 2 months since their initial shot.

Q. If I am immunocompromised, do I need an additional primary dose, a booster shot, or both?

Additional Primary Dose

If you received 2 doses of the Pfizer (ages 5 and older) or Moderna (ages 18 and older) COVID-19 vaccine and have a moderately to severely compromised immune system, you should receive an additional primary dose of the same mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after the second dose. The additional primary dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is intended to improve immunocompromised people's response to their vaccine primary series.

Currently, the CDC does not recommend an additional primary dose if you received a single-dose J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

Booster Shots

Moderately to severely immunocompromised people ages 12 years and older who received an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine primary series, and an additional primary mRNA vaccine may get a booster shot 5 months after completing their vaccine primary series.

Immunocompromised people 18 years and older who received a J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine primary dose should also receive a single COVID-19 vaccine booster shot at least 2 months after their primary dose.

If you are eligible, you may choose which vaccine you receive as a booster dose. Some people may prefer the vaccine type that they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different booster. CDC's recommendations allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots. You may consider the benefits and risks of each product and discuss with your healthcare provider which COVID-19 vaccine product is the most appropriate booster for you.



Q: Where can I get a booster shot?

A: Any vaccine provider that has doses available can give you a booster shot. You do not need to get your booster shot from the same provider that administered your first two doses of the vaccine. To find a vaccine provider near you, visit

<https://www.vaccines.gov/search/>. There, you can search for providers based on your zip code, and you can limit your search to providers that currently have a specific type of vaccine doses in stock. You can also text your zip code to 438829 or call 1-800-232-0233 for help finding a provider.

You can also call the Department of Health's hotline, 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) for assistance finding a vaccine provider or scheduling an appointment.

Most providers now offer appointments and also accept walk-ins, but it is best to check with individual providers to see if they take walk-ins before showing up without a scheduled appointment.

Q: What should I bring with me to my booster shot appointment?

A: You should bring the vaccination card you received when you got your initial doses of the vaccine. If you lost it or never received a vaccination card, you should first reach out to the provider who administered your original doses and ask them for a copy of your vaccination records.

If you cannot contact them directly, you should reach out to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, which maintains a statewide immunization system and can likely provide you with a copy of your records. Visit <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Reporting-Registries/PA-SIIS/Pages/PA-SIIS.aspx> for information about how to access your records through the statewide system.





If you are still unable to access your records after contacting the Department of Health, the CDC suggests speaking to a vaccine provider directly, and explaining your need for a booster shot and when you were originally vaccinated.

Q: I was able to schedule a booster appointment, but the location is not accessible to me. What can I do?

A: First, DO NOT cancel your appointment. Vaccination providers are required to make reasonable accommodations to their established practices and procedures in order to provide people with disabilities with the vaccine. An accommodation might include offering you a curbside shot, meaning someone would meet you outside and vaccinate you, or meeting you in an alternate area of the building.

We suggest contacting the provider ahead of time, explaining your need for accommodation, and asking how they can accommodate you. If you run into problems getting a needed accommodation, call our vaccine hotline at **1-833-DRP-2-VAX**.

Q: I cannot leave my home but would like to get my booster shot. What are my options?

A: If you need to be vaccinated at home, you should reach out to any one of the following state resources for assistance arranging an appointment:

- Your local Area Agency on Aging, contact information for each county can be found here: <https://www.aging.pa.gov/local-resources/Pages/AAA.aspx>
- If you are enrolled in Medical Assistance, your managed care organization can help you schedule a shot. Contact your Managed Care Organization (MCO) for more information.

Your county may also maintain its own hotline for scheduling a shot at home.

Q: In order to get my booster shot, I need transportation, and I do not have access to public transportation or do not feel safe using it during the pandemic. What can I do?

A: Pennsylvania operates a Persons with Disabilities program, where people with disabilities who are 18 through 64 may receive reduced rates on shared-ride, curb-to-curb, advance reservation transportation services. For people who are 65 and older, the Pennsylvania Department of Aging offers alternative transportation options. You can find information about your county's transportation options for people with disabilities (referred to as Shared Ride/Demand Response on the map) by visiting <https://gis.penndot.gov/transitmap/#>.

Lyft is offering free round-trip rides to vaccine providers within a certain distance of the passenger's starting location. Information about how to schedule the free rides is available in the Lyft app or online at <https://www.lyft.com/vaccine-access>.

Q: Can I get my booster shot in a different county than where I live?

A: Yes. There is no requirement that you get vaccinated in the same county in which you live. However, individual vaccine providers may have different eligibility requirements (e.g., a vaccine clinic sponsored by an individual county might limit their doses to county residents). Thus, it is important to check with vaccine providers to ensure your eligibility before scheduling an appointment.

Q: Can I really choose which vaccine I receive as my booster shot?

A: Yes. Assuming you meet the eligibility criteria for a booster shot, which vary based on the vaccine you originally received, you are free to select a booster from either Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson.

