



# Recommendations for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised Persons

(11/01/2022)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that moderately to severely immunocompromised people age 6 months and older who received Moderna, 5 years and older who received Pfizer and 18 years and older who received Johnson & Johnson (J&J) should receive an additional dose in their primary vaccine series, and should receive booster doses when eligible:

Age	Vaccine	Primary series doses	Size of dose	Days apart	Booster dose
6 months through 4 years	Pfizer	3	3 mcg/0.2 mL	2nd dose at least 21 days after 1st dose. 3rd dose at least 8 weeks after 2nd dose.	Not recommended at this time
6 months through 5 years	Moderna	3	25 mcg/0.25 mL	2nd dose at least 28 days after 1st dose. 3rd dose at least 28 days after 2nd dose	Not recommended at this time. Children age 5 are eligible to receive a bivalent Pfizer booster dose two months after completion of their primary vaccination series.

Age	Vaccine	Primary series doses	Size of dose	Days apart	Booster dose
5–11 years	Pfizer	3	10 mcg/0.2 mL	2nd dose at least 21 days after 1st dose. 3rd dose at least 28 days after 2nd dose	Bivalent mRNA booster dose (updated vaccine formula) at least two months after final dose in primary series or two months after most recent monovalent booster dose (original vaccine formula)5-year-old children are only eligible to receive Pfizer. People ages 6 and older have the choice of Pfizer or Moderna.
6–11 years	Moderna	3	50 mcgs/0.5 mL	2nd dose at least 28 days after 1st dose. 3rd dose at least 28 days after 2nd dose.	
12+ years	Pfizer	3	30 mcg/0.3 mL	2nd dose at least 21 days after 1st dose 3rd dose at least 28 days after 2nd dose	
12+ years	Moderna	3	100 mcg/0.5 mL	2nd dose at least 28 days after 1st dose 3rd dose at least 28 days after 2nd dose	
18+ years	J&J	2	0.5 mL	2nd dose, preferably an mRNA vaccine, at least 28 days after first (J&J) dose.	Bivalent mRNA booster dose at least 2 months after final dose in primary series OR at least two months after most recent monovalent (original vaccine) booster dose, can be Pfizer or Moderna
12+	Novavax	2	50 mcggrams/ 0.5 mL	2nd dose at least 21 days after first dose	Bivalent mRNA booster dose at least two months after second dose, can be Pfizer or Moderna

### People who are considered to be moderately to severely immunocompromised

A U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) statement defined “immunocompromised individuals” as solid organ transplant recipients or others who have similar reductions in their immune response.

The national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) also expanded on the FDA's definition of "immunocompromised individuals" to include people who:

- Are undergoing active treatment for solid tumor or hematologic malignancies
- Have received a solid-organ transplant and are taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Have received chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T-cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within two years of transplantation or are taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Have moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge or Wiskott-Aldrich syndromes)
- Have advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Are undergoing active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e.,  $\geq 20$  mg prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, TNF blockers or other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory.

### **How to schedule an additional dose or booster dose if you are immunocompromised**

If you are considered to be "moderately to severely immunocompromised" as described above, you should talk with your health care provider to determine whether you are eligible for an additional dose of an mRNA vaccine.

If it's determined you are eligible, you can self-attest to your immunocompromised condition to receive an additional dose of your vaccine.

"Additional" doses for immunocompromised persons are the same dose as others in an mRNA primary vaccination series, but Moderna *boosters* involve a lower dose of that vaccine.

### **You are still considered "fully" vaccinated if you are immunocompromised and do not receive an additional dose or booster doses.**

People who have received either one dose of a Johnson & Johnson vaccine or two doses of an mRNA vaccine are considered "fully vaccinated," even if they haven't had the recommended additional dose. Moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals, however, should understand their increased risk for COVID-19 infection and consider an additional dose of an mRNA vaccine if they fit the criteria laid out in the Emergency Use Authorization.

## You may be eligible for Evusheld: long-lasting preventive antibodies

If you are moderately or severely immunocompromised or severely allergic to COVID-19 vaccines, you may be eligible for Evusheld, long-lasting antibodies given by your health care provider to help prevent you from getting COVID-19. Talk to your health care provider to find out if this option is right for you.

## Early treatments are available for high-risk persons who get COVID-19

Paxlovid and Lagevrio (molnupiravir) are antiviral pills taken orally and available by prescription from your health care provider or through the federal [Test to Treat program](#). Both Paxlovid and Lagevrio (molnupiravir) must be taken for five consecutive days, started within five days of symptom onset.

Bebtelovimab is a monoclonal antibody authorized by FDA for use in non-hospitalized persons 12+ years old with COVID-19 who are at high risk of progression to severe disease. It must be administered by intravenous injection, started within seven days of symptom onset.

VEKLURY (remdesivir) is indicated for the treatment of COVID-19 in adults and pediatric patients (28+ days old and weighing 3+ kg) who are hospitalized or not hospitalized, have mild-to-moderate COVID-19 and are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death. It is injected like a vaccine, once a day for three consecutive days, started within seven days of symptom onset.

## These documents provide more information on vaccine recommendations in immunocompromised people:

[ACIP Altered Immunocompetence Guidelines for Immunization](#)

[2013 IDSA Clinical Practice Guideline for Vaccination of the Immunocompromised Host](#)

[CDC Yellow Book 2020](#)

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