



COVID-19 Booster Dose FAQs

(Updated 10-22-2021)

Q: Are booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine recommended?

Medical experts have found that the COVID-19 vaccines remain highly effective in preventing COVID-19-associated hospitalizations and deaths in most age groups, but that protection begins to wane after several months in older adults.

Based on scientific evidence, booster doses of all three COVID-19 vaccines are now available.

For people who received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, booster doses are available for some groups of people at least six months after their second dose of either vaccine, as shown below:

- People who **should** get a booster dose due to increased risk for hospitalization and severe disease:
 - 65 years and older
 - 18+ living in long-term care facilities
 - 50+ who have [underlying medical conditions](#), increased risk of social inequities, or disabilities (including intellectual and developmental disabilities)
- People who **may** get a booster dose:
 - 18+ who have [underlying medical conditions](#), increased risk of social inequities, or disabilities (including intellectual and developmental disabilities)
 - 18+ who live or work in [high-risk settings](#)

For people who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, everyone 18 years and older **should** receive a booster dose at least two months after their first dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

All three COVID-19 vaccines are available as a booster dose for fully vaccinated people in the groups listed above. This means people can get a booster dose at any location that provides COVID-19 vaccines, depending on advice from their health care provider, individual preference, availability or convenience.

Q. Where can people get a booster dose?

Booster doses are widely available through pharmacies, doctor's offices and clinics, as COVID-19 vaccine is today. [Use the vaccine locator map to find a vaccine provider near you or call 211](#) or (866) 698-6155 for information and assistance in any language.

Q. How do booster doses work?

As with other vaccines, a booster dose will strengthen the body's ability to prevent disease from the virus that causes COVID-19. Results from a clinical trial and a large study in Israel found that a third dose of Pfizer vaccine 6 months after receipt of the second dose provides a strong boost to the body's immune response to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Q. Is the booster dose different from other COVID-19 vaccine doses?

The Moderna booster dose is a half-dose; this means it is half the amount of the first or second doses of Moderna. This is the only difference.

There is no difference between the first, second or booster doses for the Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

Q: Should someone who is eligible for a third dose and a booster get both?

No. Someone who is eligible for both a third dose and a booster should only get one additional shot. A third dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine is recommended for people who are immunocompromised and did not experience a strong immune response to their primary vaccine series. Third doses are to be given 28 days or more after the second dose. Those individuals who are immunocompromised and received a dose of Johnson & Johnson as their primary series should get a booster dose of any of the three vaccines to increase their immunity and protection from disease.

Q: What do providers need to know about safety and reporting after administering a booster dose?

Providers should monitor for adverse events, including local and systemic reactions. Providers are encouraged to report any adverse reactions to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting Database (VAERS). <https://vaers.hhs.gov>

Q: Will there be enough vaccines available in Oregon to meet demand?

Yes. You will be able to get a booster at a convenient location (pharmacy, doctor's office, your long-term care facility, or mass vaccination clinic in some locations). Please be patient. You may need to make an appointment because health care workers are also managing the surge in COVID-19 cases in the state. But don't worry – your current vaccination still offers strong protection against serious COVID-19 illness.

Q: I received one dose of Moderna and one dose of Pfizer. Which booster dose should I get?

People who received a mixed dose series can receive a Pfizer or Moderna booster. You may also choose to receive a Johnson & Johnson vaccine dose instead and can speak to your health care provider if you have additional concerns

Q. I received Johnson & Johnson. If I get a Pfizer or Moderna booster, do I need two doses?

No. A booster dose is a single dose for all three vaccines, so you only need one additional dose of vaccine after your Johnson & Johnson primary vaccine: full-dose Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson, or a half dose Moderna.

Q: Do people need to provide proof of vaccination to get a booster dose?

No. However, eligibility for a booster depends on date of administration of the original vaccine series. All vaccinators should check the ALERT system to determine if the timing is appropriate.

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact the COVID-19 Communications Unit at 1-971-673-2411, 711 TTY or COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhsoha.state.or.us.