



# COVID-19 Booster Dose FAQs

(Updated 12/01/2021)

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

Yes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone age 18 and older receive a booster dose once they're eligible: six months after the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna, or two months after a dose of Johnson & Johnson.

## Q. Is there a waiting period after getting a booster dose?

Yes. People should be monitored for immediate side effects for 15–30 minutes after vaccination.

## 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. Proof of eligibility is not required, though providers may ask for confirmation of your last dose.

## Q. How do booster doses work?

The first vaccine series built up the immune system to make the antibodies needed to fight the disease. Over time, the immune response weakens. A booster dose builds on the initial response and tends to result in higher antibody levels that help people maintain their immunity longer.

## 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?

Yes. The [CDC recommends](#) immunocompromised people who received a third dose should also get a booster dose. 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. The third dose should be given 28 days or more after the second dose. Then, six months later, because

immunity may have waned, these people are eligible for a booster dose—which would be their fourth dose.

People who are immunocompromised and received a dose of Johnson & Johnson as their primary series should not get an additional primary dose; but they should get a booster dose of any of the three vaccines two months later 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. 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 either a Pfizer or a Moderna booster. You may also choose to receive a Johnson & Johnson vaccine dose instead. 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, your provider may ask when you received your last vaccination, as administration should be within the authorized time period. All vaccinators should check the ALERT system to determine if the timing is appropriate.

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