



The COVID-19 Vaccine and You

*An update on additional doses, booster doses and medications to prevent COVID-19
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Additional COVID-19 vaccine doses

The OHA HIV/STD/TB Section recommends that people five years of age and older living with HIV who received two doses of either the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines get an additional dose at least 28 days after their second dose. In addition, we recommend an additional dose of either the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after the first dose of the J&J/Janssen vaccine.

We recommend that all people living with HIV could receive an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine and that people with the characteristics listed below should receive an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine as part of their first vaccine series. Research shows that people with the following characteristics at the time of vaccination need additional doses to create a protective immune response against COVID-19.

- Are not on HIV treatment
- Have symptoms of HIV infection
- Have a CD4 count < 350 cells/mL
- Have had an HIV-related malignancy (like lymphoma, Kaposi sarcoma, or cervical or anal cancer) without an appropriate increase in CD4 count after starting HIV treatment
- Have had an opportunistic infection (like pneumocystis pneumonia [PJP or PCP], cryptococcal meningitis, TB, or toxoplasmosis) without an appropriate increase in CD4 count after starting HIV treatment
- Are being treated for cancer
- Have had a bone marrow or solid organ transplant
- Take medications that suppress the immune system (like high doses of prednisone, methotrexate, Humira, or Remicade)
- Have kidney disease that requires dialysis
- Are older than 65 years of age

COVID-19 booster doses

In contrast to additional doses that help produce a protective immune response, booster doses keep the protection we get from a vaccine high and strong. We recommend that all people 12 years of age and older receive a booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at least 3 months after the last dose of a first mRNA vaccine series (Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna). Individuals who received the J&J/Janssen vaccine are recommended to receive a booster dose of the vaccine of their choice at least two months after their last dose (an mRNA booster dose is preferred.) The first vaccine series includes any additional COVID-19 vaccine doses like those described in the first paragraph above.

Booster doses are important because they offer protection against severe disease from the Omicron variant of COVID-19 and reduce the risk of [breakthrough COVID-19 infections](#) which may be more common among people living with HIV.

You can use the following guide to help determine what vaccines to get and when to get them based on what vaccine you received first. If you have questions about what vaccine to get and when, don't hesitate to talk with your health care team.

COVID-19 vaccine guide for people living with HIV

If you received 2 doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine first and are:	We recommend an additional dose at least 28 days after your second dose with:	And a booster dose at least 3 months after your last dose with:
5-11 years old	Pfizer/BioNTech	Booster doses not yet approved
12-17 years old	Pfizer/BioNTech	Pfizer/BioNTech
18 years old and older	Moderna or Pfizer/BioNTech	Moderna or Pfizer/BioNTech
First vaccine series		Booster

If you received 2 doses of the Moderna vaccine first and are:	We recommend an additional dose at least 28 days after your second dose with:	And a booster dose at least 3 months after your last dose with:
18 years old and older	Moderna or Pfizer/BioNTech	Moderna or Pfizer/BioNTech
First vaccine series		Booster

If you received 1 dose of the J&J/Janssen vaccine first and are:	We recommend an additional dose at least 28 days after your first dose with:	And a booster dose at least 2 months after your last dose with:
18 years old and older	Moderna or Pfizer/BioNTech	J&J/Janssen, Moderna or Pfizer/BioNTech. Moderna or Pfizer/BioNTech are preferred.
First vaccine series		Booster

Medications to prevent COVID-19

On Dec. 8, 2021, the FDA issued emergency use authorization for a long-acting medication, [Evusheld](#), to prevent COVID-19 infection in people 12 years of age and older without current COVID-19 or a recent exposure to COVID-19 (like pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV). The medication is for people with immune compromise (as defined by the characteristics listed in the section “Additional COVID-19 vaccine doses” above) whose bodies cannot create a protective immune response after vaccination or for people who have a history of severe adverse reactions to a COVID-19 vaccine.

Evusheld is a combination of two medications called monoclonal antibodies. Monoclonal antibodies are a single version of proteins made in a laboratory that can protect us from infections. Evusheld contains two different proteins that protect against COVID-19. The medication is administered as two separate injections into the muscle one after the other and may provide protection against COVID-19 for up to 6 months.

Pre-exposure prophylaxis with Evusheld is not a substitute for COVID-19 vaccination in people who are eligible to receive vaccination. OHA is currently working with HIV providers across the state to ensure that people living with HIV have access to this medication at no cost.

More information

For more information on COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines, including where you can get vaccinated, please see our prior FAQs on OHA’s [COVID-19 and HIV webpage](#) and OHA’s [page](#) on COVID-19 vaccination. The information in this document adds to but does not replace talking with your healthcare team about how best to protect yourself against COVID-19, including getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

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@dhsosha.state.or.us