

# COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTER OR ADDITIONAL DOSE: Which do I need?



You may have questions about the difference between a COVID-19 vaccine booster and an additional (or 3rd) dose, and which one is right for you. An additional (3rd) dose of COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for those with weak immune systems (for example, those who are cancer patients or organ transplant recipients) as part of their regular COVID-19 vaccine series. A booster dose is a dose given to someone, regardless of whether they have a weakened immune system, who has completed their original vaccine series to offer them increased protection. Because vaccine effectiveness can decrease over time, boosters help to "charge" your immunity and increase your protection from COVID-19. Follow the map below to see which vaccines you might need to make sure you're optimally protected against COVID-19!

## Which vaccine did you originally get?

**Pfizer**

Do you have a weakened immune system?

**Moderna**

**Yes**

**No**

Those 5 years and older who received **Pfizer** and those 6 months and older who received **Moderna** should get an **additional (3rd) dose** of the same COVID-19 vaccine 4 weeks after their second dose. Kids 5-11 years who received **Pfizer** should ALSO get a booster at least 3 months after their additional (3rd) dose. Those 12 years and older who received **Pfizer** and those 18 years and older who received **Moderna** should get **2 booster doses**, the first booster at least 3 months after their additional (3rd) dose, and the second booster at least 4 months after the first booster.

**Novavax**

Additional and booster doses are not yet available for those who received **Novavax**.

Everyone 18 years and older should get a COVID-19 vaccine **booster**. Kids 5-17 years who received **Pfizer** should also get a booster; boosters are not approved for kids in this age group who received **Moderna**. People who received **Pfizer or Moderna** should get their booster at least 5 months after their second dose. Adults 50 years and older should get a **second booster** dose of either **Pfizer or Moderna** at least 4 months after their first booster.

**Johnson & Johnson**

Do you have a weakened immune system?

**I haven't been vaccinated yet**

**Yes**

**No**

Those 18 years and older should get 1 **additional dose** of either **Pfizer or Moderna** at least 4 weeks after their J&J dose, followed by **2 booster doses** -- the first at least 2 months after the second dose and the second at least 4 months after the first booster.

**Get vaccinated as soon as possible!**

Those 18 years and older should get a **booster** dose of either **Pfizer or Moderna** vaccine at least 2 months after their J&J vaccine. Adults 50 years and older should get a second booster dose of either **Pfizer or Moderna** at least 4 months after their first booster. People 18 years and older who received 2 J&J doses may get a second booster of either **Pfizer or Moderna**.