

COVID-19 booster shots



Booster shots are recommended for everyone who has received a COVID-19 vaccine, if they are 12 years and older.



All three of the COVID-19 (COVID) vaccines approved for use in the U.S. prevent COVID and reduce risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death. However, Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (m-RNA vaccines), are preferred for better protection. Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine is recommended in some situations. Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and reduce the spread of the virus. This includes helping to prevent new variants of the virus from emerging.

Studies now show vaccine protection against the virus and the ability to prevent COVID infection likely decrease over time, especially if variants of the virus emerge. That's why getting a booster shot after your original vaccination series is now recommended for everyone 12 years and older. These booster shots are the same as the current COVID vaccines.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS TO GETTING A BOOSTER SHOT?

CDC reports that the risks of getting a booster are like getting the second shot or the single-dose shot of vaccine. Most common side effects were mild to moderate and included headache, fatigue, and pain at the injection site. Serious side effects are rare but may occur.



WHICH BOOSTER SHOT SHOULD I GET?

If You Received Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna:

- Persons 12 years and older should get a booster. Only the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is recommended for those aged 12-17 years.
- Get a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine booster at least 5 months after completing your first series of these COVID vaccinations.

If You Received Johnson & Johnson's Janssen:

- Adults 18 years and older should get a booster.
- Get a booster at least 2 months after completing your primary COVID Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccination.
- Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine boosters are preferred in most situations.*

* Ask your doctor if a Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine booster is recommended for you.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot
cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/How-Do-I-Get-a-COVID-19-Vaccine