

COVID-19 Fact Sheet

Additional Vaccine Doses for the Immunocompromised

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends an additional dose of messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine for certain people who have weakened immune systems caused by medical conditions or therapies. This additional dose is meant to strengthen immune response in recipients who may have had insufficient response to the initial two-dose regimen.
- The additional dose recommendation applies to people with moderate to severe immunosuppression who are at heightened risk for serious outcomes from COVID-19. It is estimated that less than 3% of the U.S. population falls into this category.
- One additional dose is recommended for eligible recipients who have already received two doses of the Moderna or Pfizer mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. It is recommended that the additional dose be given at least four weeks (28 days) after the recipient's last (second) dose of vaccine.
- Due to insufficient data, the recommendation for an additional dose does not apply to recipients of the single-dose viral vector Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. The CDC and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are working to provide guidance on this issue.
- Conditions and treatments that may cause or moderate to severe immune compromise include, but are not limited to:
 - Active treatment for a solid-tumor cancer or a blood, bone marrow, or lymph cancer.
 - Receipt of a solid organ transplant and use of related immunosuppressive drugs.
 - Receipt within the past two years of a CAR-T-cell transplant or taking related immunosuppressive drugs.
 - Receipt within the past two years of a hematopoietic stem cell (bone marrow) transplant or taking related immunosuppressive drugs.
 - Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency.
 - Advanced or untreated HIV.
 - Active treatment with any of the following:
 - High-dose corticosteroids.
 - Alkylating agents.
 - Antimetabolites.
 - Transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs.
 - Chemotherapy treatments classified as severely immunosuppressive
 - Tumor necrosis factor (TNF) blockers.
 - A biologic agent that is immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory.

- If you are unsure whether you should receive an additional dose, contact your doctor for guidance.
- For public health purposes, immunocompromised people are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
- People who are immunocompromised are more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19 and are at higher risk for prolonged infection and shedding of the virus that causes COVID-19. They also are more likely to transmit the virus to household contacts.
- Immunocompromised people, including those who receive an additional, third mRNA vaccine dose, may have reduced immune response to vaccine and should continue to follow prevention measures.
 - Wear a mask.
 - Stay 6 feet away from people you do not live with.
 - Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces until advised otherwise by your healthcare provider.
- Close contacts of immunocompromised people are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

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For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at 1-800-720-9616.