Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses

Adults and Adolescents

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have authorized a booster dose of the three COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer/Comirnaty, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen) for eligible adults to offer added protection against serious outcomes from COVID-19 and/or to maximize ongoing protection against COVID-19 infection.

Eligibility, dosage, and timing of boosters varies by individual COVID-19 vaccine product. Not all Ohioans are eligible to receive a booster dose at this time. Factors that determine eligibility include age, health, living situation, job, how long ago you were originally vaccinated, and which vaccine you received.

Terminology:

Primary series: An initial two-dose series of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) or a single dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Additional dose: A dose given after a primary series to people who likely did not have a protective immune response to the initial vaccination. An additional mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose is recommended for moderately and severely immunocompromised people who received an mRNA vaccine primary series.

Booster dose: A dose given to people who have received a primary series. The intent is to boost immunity because protection is likely to have waned over time. At this time, booster doses are not recommended for anyone 18 years or younger.

Who Is Eligible For Booster Doses

If you received the Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty or Moderna vaccine

Booster doses are authorized for fully vaccinated Pfizer and Moderna vaccine recipients who are at high-risk for exposure to COVID-19 or the complications from severe disease.

A booster dose can be given at least six months after completion of the primary series (two doses) of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine for those who meet any of the following criteria:

- 65 years and older.
- Age 18 and older and live in long-term care settings.
- Age 18 and older and have underlying medical conditions.
- Age 18 and older and work or live in high-risk settings.

For immunocompromised patients: A booster dose can be given at least six months after receiving an additional (third) dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine for those who:

- Are 18 and older and received the initial two-dose series plus an additional dose due to being moderately to severely immunocompromised. (This additional dose would have been given at least four weeks after the second dose.)

If you received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine

Booster doses are authorized for all recipients of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. Anyone age 18 or older who received a Johnson & Johnson vaccine can get a second booster dose at least two months following the initial dose.
Mix-and-match boosters

Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type that they originally received and others may prefer to get a different booster. **This mix-and-match approach only applies to booster doses. A primary vaccination series of an mRNA vaccine (i.e. initial two doses of Moderna of Pfizer/Comirnaty) should be completed using the same product.**

Booster shot dosages

The Pfizer/Comirnaty booster dose is the same formulation and dosage given for the primary series.

The Moderna booster dose is **NOT the same dosage given for the primary series.** The booster dose is a half-dose. Individuals seeking a booster dose should indicate this when scheduling an appointment or walking in, and should bring their COVID-19 vaccine card or vaccine record with them to their appointment (more information below) if possible.

The Johnson & Johnson booster dose is the same dosage given for the first dose.

More info

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers
Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers
Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers

When and where to be vaccinated

There are many opportunities in Ohio to be vaccinated, including at pharmacies, federally qualified health centers, doctor’s offices, community vaccination sites, and local health departments. There is ample supply of vaccine for boosters, as well as first and second doses, for Ohioans. Ohioans can check gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov for the latest eligibility information and to find a nearby vaccine provider with the COVID-19 vaccine product needed. Eligible booster recipients will be asked to attest they are eligible based upon age, qualifying condition, or setting/occupation. Specifically, eligible Ohioans will be able to visit the following types of providers to be vaccinated:

- **Long-term care facility or congregate living residents and staff** – facilities will administer vaccines to residents and staff; specifically, nursing homes and assisted living facilities will use Ohio’s COVID-19 Vaccine Maintenance Program, and state-owned institutional settings and veterans homes will vaccinate eligible staff and residents.
- **Other eligible Ohioans not listed above** – eligible Ohioans can find a provider and schedule an appointment at gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov.
  - Most pharmacies offer either walk-in or scheduled appointments.
  - Local health departments in some of Ohio’s largest cities offer special community vaccination sites, and health departments in virtually every county are prepared to offer booster doses, including to homebound individuals.
  - Community health centers and participating primary care providers offer booster doses.
  - Some hospital systems or networks offer booster doses.

There are many opportunities to be vaccinated in your community, whether you walk in to get your booster dose or make an appointment with a nearby provider.

**You are encouraged to bring your COVID-19 vaccine card to your appointment**

Ohioans are encouraged to bring their existing COVID-19 vaccine card to be updated. If you cannot find your vaccine card, you should first contact your original vaccine provider to ask if they can locate your records. If they are unable to assist, please contact your local health department. If they are unable to assist, please review this information on how to mail a request for your vaccination records to the Ohio Department of Health. You will not be able to obtain a new vaccine card by request, but will be able to access your vaccination records. If you do not have your original vaccine card, you can still receive your booster dose.

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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.