

August 27, 2021



COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

The FDA and CDC have been moving rapidly on several fronts in the fight against COVID. Pfizer been fully approved by the FDA/CDC for all individuals 12yrs of age or older. This includes the administration of a “Booster” shot. Between now and September 19th, 2021 Booster vaccination(s) will focus on immunocompromised individuals. All other fully vaccinated individuals who received their last dose 8 months prior, will be eligible for a Booster shot. As data continues to be evaluated, it is possible booster shots will be recommended sooner than 8 months. The Medical Center is keeping a close eye on development and will adjust our vaccination processes accordingly.

In an effort to expedite vaccinations and exponentially enhance access (unvaccinated and boosters alike) ***ALL*** retail pharmacies are accommodating the administration of vaccine. For those interested, we encourage you to schedule an appointment with your local pharmacy. The process has been well tuned. The feedback the Medical Center has received from our members detail seamless experiences throughout the US.

Visit www.Vaccines.gov to find vaccination providers near you. In some states, information may be limited while more U. S. vaccination providers and pharmacies are being added. Learn more about COVID-19 Vaccination Locations on Vaccines.gov. In addition, the following link contains information you may find informative. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>

The Medical Center is currently focusing vaccination efforts on our qualified immunocompromised resident population and employees who have yet to be vaccinated.

Choosing Safer Activities



- If you are not fully vaccinated and aged 2 or older, you should wear a mask in indoor public places.
- In general, you do not need to wear a mask in outdoor settings.
 - In areas with [high numbers of COVID-19 cases](#), consider wearing a mask in crowded outdoor settings and for activities with [close contact](#) with others who are not fully vaccinated.
- People who have a condition or are taking medications that weaken their immune system may not be fully protected even if they are fully vaccinated. They should continue to take all [precautions recommended for unvaccinated people, including wearing a well-fitted mask](#), until advised otherwise by their healthcare provider.
- If you are fully vaccinated, to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area [of substantial or high transmission](#).

In other news:

Johnson & Johnson also said Wednesday that studies show a booster dose of its vaccine offered a ninefold increase in antibodies compared with the single-shot vaccine on its own.

Moderna has submitted data to the CDC seeking full approval. Booster dose approval is expected for vaccinated individuals 18yrs of age or older.

When can I get a COVID-19 vaccine booster?

Not immediately. The goal is for people to start receiving a COVID-19 booster shot beginning in the fall, with individuals being eligible starting 8 months after they received their [second dose](#) of an mRNA vaccine (either [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) or [Moderna](#)). This is subject to authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and recommendation by CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). FDA is conducting an independent evaluation to determine the safety and effectiveness of a booster dose of the mRNA vaccines. ACIP will decide whether to issue a booster dose recommendation based on a thorough review of the evidence.

Who will be the first people to get a booster dose?

If FDA authorizes and ACIP recommends a booster dose, the goal is for the first people eligible for a booster dose to be those who were the first to receive a COVID-19 vaccination (those who are most at risk). This includes healthcare providers, residents of long-term care facilities, and other older adults.

Why is the United States waiting to start offering COVID-19 vaccine boosters?

The [COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States](#) continue to be [highly effective](#) in reducing risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, even against the widely circulating [Delta variant](#). However, COVID-19 constantly evolves. Experts are looking at all available data to understand how well the vaccines are working, including how new variants, like Delta, affect vaccine effectiveness. If FDA authorizes and ACIP recommends it, the goal is for people to start receiving a COVID-19 booster shot this fall.

Will people who received Johnson & Johnson's Janssen (J&J/Janssen) COVID-19 Vaccine need a booster shot?

It is likely that people who received a [J&J COVID-19 vaccine](#) will need a booster dose. Because the J&J/Janssen vaccine wasn't given in the United States until 70 days after the first mRNA vaccine doses ([Pfizer-BioNTech](#) and [Moderna](#)), the data needed to make this decision aren't available yet. These data are expected in the coming weeks. With those data in hand, CDC will keep the public informed with a timely plan for J&J/Janssen booster shots.

Can people who received Johnson & Johnson's Janssen (J&J/Janssen) COVID-19 Vaccine get a booster dose of an mRNA vaccine?

No, there aren't enough data currently to support getting an mRNA vaccine dose (either [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) or [Moderna](#)) if someone has gotten a [J&J/Janssen vaccine](#). People who got the J&J/Janssen vaccine will likely need a booster dose, and more data are expected in the coming weeks. With those data in hand, CDC will keep the public informed with a timely plan for J&J/Janssen booster shots.

If we need a booster dose, does that mean that the vaccines aren't working?

No. [COVID-19 vaccines are working very well](#) to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death, even against the widely circulating [Delta variant](#). However, with the Delta variant, public health experts are starting to see reduced protection against mild and moderate disease. For that reason, the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is planning for a booster shot so vaccinated people maintain protection over the coming months.

What's the difference between a booster dose and an additional dose?

Sometimes people who are [moderately to severely immunocompromised](#) do not build enough (or any) protection when they first get a vaccination. When this happens, getting another dose of the vaccine can sometimes help them build more protection against the disease. This appears to be the case for some immunocompromised people and COVID-19 vaccines. CDC recommends moderately to severely immunocompromised people consider receiving an additional (third) dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine ([Pfizer-BioNTech](#) or [Moderna](#)) at least 28 days after the completion of the initial 2-dose mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series.

In contrast, a “booster dose” refers to another dose of a vaccine that is given to someone who built enough protection after vaccination, but then that protection decreased over time (this is called waning immunity). HHS has [developed a plan](#) to begin offering COVID-19 booster shots to people this fall. Implementation of the plan is subject to FDA's authorization and ACIP's recommendation.

Related Pages

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\), Division of Viral Diseases](#)

Best,
Chris