

September 24, 2021



*Out of abundance of caution, the Medical Center is screening all guests before providing entrance into the facility. To ensure our team is able to address your needs; we kindly ask to be as forthcoming as possible regarding your visit and provide all symptoms you may be experiencing.*

#### COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot

UPDATED: Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 10 a.m.

The FDA [granted](#) emergency authorization on Wednesday to administer third doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine to Americans older than 65 or to those who are at high risk, including healthcare workers and teachers 6 months post second dose.

Friday Morning 2AM: The CDC approved the FDA's recommendations and overrode the approved qualifiers broadening those who are now eligible.

In the end, the panel unanimously endorsed booster shots for adults over 65 and for residents of long-term care facilities, who most clearly will benefit.

The committee also backed the shots for people 50 to 64 with medical conditions that leave them at risk for severe Covid-19, as well as those 18 to 49 who have certain medical conditions, based on an assessment of their individual needs.

Only Americans who already have received two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine will qualify for booster shots. The panel was not asked to judge whether people who received the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines should receive the additional doses, which have not been authorized by the F.D.A.

A two-dose version of Johnson & Johnson's coronavirus vaccine provides 94% protection against symptomatic infection, the company said Tuesday -- making a two-dose regimen of J&J's Janssen vaccine comparable to a two-dose regimen of Moderna's or Pfizer's.

The CDC recommends a third dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, including the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines, for some people with weakened immune systems, such as those who have had an organ transplant. People with weakened immune systems might not develop enough immunity after vaccination with two doses of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. An additional dose might improve their protection against the COVID-19 virus.

The third dose should be given at least 6 months after a second dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. The additional dose should be the same as the other two mRNA COVID-19 vaccine doses you were given. If the type given isn't known, either brand of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine can be given as a third dose.

In addition, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration voted on Friday to recommend COVID-19 [vaccine booster shots](#) for Americans six months after vaccination 65 and older and those at high risk of severe illness.

#### IN OTHER NEWS:

Pfizer announced Monday that data from recent trials suggests that children 5-11 have a safe and effective response to its Covid-19 vaccine. The news holds the hope to herald a new phase in our battle to end the public health crisis caused by the coronavirus in the United States. While all the usual caveats still apply (namely, Pfizer's data has not yet been subject to peer review or public scrutiny; the primary endpoint reported today suggests immunity but does not prove it), a path toward that end certainly feels closer than it did before.

#### FLU SEASON: What's New for 2021-2022

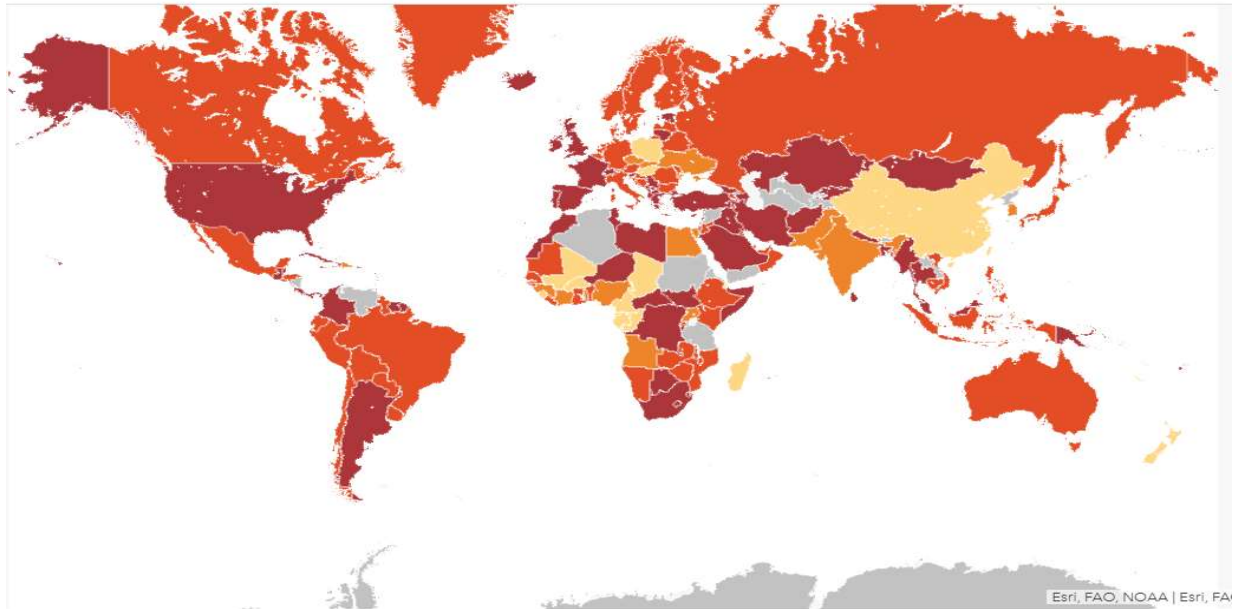
A few things are different for the 2021-2022 influenza (flu) season, including:

- Annual flu vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months and older, with [few exceptions](#).
- The [composition of flu vaccines](#) has been updated.
- All flu vaccines will be quadrivalent (four component), meaning designed to protect against four different flu viruses. For more information: [Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine | CDC](#).
- Licensure on one flu vaccine has changed. Flucelvax Quadrivalent is now approved for people 2 years and older.
- Flu vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines can be given at [the same time](#).
- More detailed guidance about the recommended timing of flu vaccination for some groups of people is available.
- Guidance concerning contraindications and precautions for the use of two flu vaccines – Flucevax Quadrivalent and Flublok Quadrivalent – were updated.

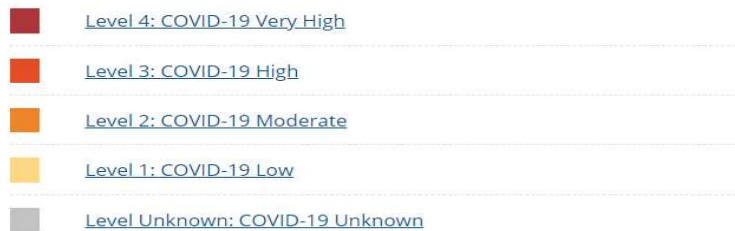
The links below provides an abundance of tracking information you may find of interest:

- <https://usafacts.org/visualizations/covid-vaccine-tracker-states/state/florida>
- <https://www.mayoclinic.org/coronavirus-covid-19/vaccine-tracker>
- <https://www.axios.com/pfizer-covid-vaccine-boosters-fda-approval-69ff9870-5e9a-4099-98ff-24085091cc7f.html>
- <https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2020/health/coronavirus-questions-answers/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2021-2022.htm>

## COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Destination



Risk Assessment Level for COVID-19



### RESOURCE

Additional information, links to community and local resources, MCOR's updated COVID-19 tracking grid and more is available at:

[WWW.MCOR.ORG](http://WWW.MCOR.ORG)