

October 29ND, 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: Call the Medical Center to schedule your Booster Shot.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>

COVID-19 Vaccine booster shots are available for the following Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine recipients who completed their initial series at least 6 months ago:

- 65 years and older
- 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- 18+ who work in high-risk settings
- 18+ who live in high-risk settings

Studies show that after getting vaccinated against COVID-19, protection against the virus may decrease over time and be less able to protect against the Delta variant. Although COVID-19 vaccination for adults aged 65 years and older remains effective in preventing severe disease, [recent data pdf icon](#) [4.7 MB, 88 pages] suggest vaccination is less effective at preventing infection or milder illness with symptoms. Emerging evidence also shows that among healthcare and other frontline workers, vaccine

effectiveness against COVID-19 infections is decreasing over time. This lower effectiveness is likely due to the combination of decreasing protection as time passes since getting vaccinated (e.g., waning immunity) as well as the greater infectiousness of the Delta variant.

Data from a small clinical trial show that a Pfizer-BioNTech booster shot increased the immune response in trial participants who finished their primary series 6 months earlier. With an increased immune response, people should have improved protection against COVID-19, including the Delta variant.

FDA/CDC approve the mix-and-match of Covid-19 vaccine boosters

There are now booster recommendations for all three available COVID-19 vaccines in the United States. 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. CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

For the nearly 15 million people who got the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are also recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated two or more months ago.

Pfizer

In September, the US Food and Drug Administration and US Centers and Disease Control and Prevention signed off on boosters of the Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine for adults 65 and older, adults at high risk of severe Covid-19 and adults with frequent exposure to the coronavirus through their work. Those boosters were authorized only for people who had already received the Pfizer vaccine at least six months earlier.

On Wednesday, the FDA authorized the Pfizer/BioNTech booster for those who may be eligible but are fully vaccinated with either the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccines, as a mix-and-match approach. Today, CDC's vaccine advisers are considering whether to recommend such mixing and matching, and the CDC director will need to sign off on the recommendation. If she does, the mixing and matching of boosters could be available to the public in a matter of days.

Also today, Pfizer and BioNTech announced that a booster dose was found to have a [high efficacy](#) — 95.6% — against Covid-19 in a Phase 3 trial.

Moderna

The FDA gave emergency use authorization on Wednesday for a half dose of Moderna's vaccine as a booster for people fully vaccinated at least six months ago who are also at least 65, or who are at least 18 and at high risk of severe Covid-19 or have frequent institutional or occupational exposure to the virus.

Now vaccine advisers to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are considering the FDA's authorization and will vote on whether to recommend the booster for use.

Johnson & Johnson

On Wednesday, the FDA authorized booster doses of Johnson & Johnson's vaccine for anyone who received it at least two months ago. The J&J vaccine authorized only for those 18 and older.

The company announced last month that [a two-dose version of the vaccine](#) provides 94% protection against symptomatic infection.

If the CDC director signs off soon, people could start getting Moderna and J&J boosters within days.

In Other News:

UPDATE

Travel requirements to enter the United States are changing, starting November 8, 2021. More information is available [here](#).

International Travel



Know Before You Go

Know travel requirements and recommendations for international travel.

[U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals, U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents, and Immigrants](#)
[Non-U.S. Citizen, Non-U.S. Immigrants: Air Travel to the United States](#)
[Travel Recommendations by Destination](#)

DETAILS ABOUT TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

[Required Testing before Air Travel to U.S.](#)

[Mask Requirement](#)

[Vaccine Requirement](#)

Before You Travel

Learn more about your destination, when not to travel, and other FAQs.



CDC has temporarily extended the [Framework for Conditional Sailing Order](#) (CSO) through January 15, 2022, with minor modifications. The CSO, as modified, applies to *foreign-flagged* cruise ships operating or seeking to operate in U.S. waters. The temporary extension is effective upon expiration of the current CSO on November 1, 2021. Passenger operations have now resumed on cruise ships. The CSO as modified aligns with current public health considerations and other factors onboard cruise ships.

CDC has issued a [Level 3 Travel Health Notice](#) for cruise ship travelers.

The chance of getting COVID-19 on cruise ships is high because the virus spreads easily between people in close quarters aboard ships.

The following groups of people **should avoid** traveling on cruise ships, including river cruises, worldwide:

- People who are **not fully vaccinated**
- People with an [increased risk of severe illness](#), regardless of vaccination status

People who decide to go on a cruise should [get tested](#) 1–3 days before their trip and 3–5 days after their trip, regardless of vaccination status.

GLOBAL VARIANT UPDATES:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-10136983/How-did-Florida-end-one-best-COVID-19-case-death-rates-US.html>

AY.4.2: Everything you need to know

Where did AY.4.2 come from?

This sub-variant of Delta was first detected in the UK on June 26, according to UK-based tracking. Scientists say it is likely that AY.4.2 evolved here because the UK has much higher case numbers than other countries.

But it is possible that the variant was imported from abroad and then started to spread in the country.

Why is it only in a few countries?

AY.4.2 has been spotted in more than 40 countries including the UK, Germany, Denmark and the US to date. It may not have been spotted in other places due to a lack of Covid surveillance, which would lead to new sub-variant not being spotted. But travel restrictions may also be behind the slow spread, which have made it less likely that the virus will be passed between countries.

How infectious is the sub-variant?

Experts estimate that AY.4.2 is around 10 per cent more infectious than the Delta variant.

They say this may lead to a marginally higher number of cases, but that it will not trigger a spike similar to that seen when Delta arrived in the UK.

Should I be concerned about AY.4.2?

Scientists say there is no reason to be too concerned about AY.4.2. There is no evidence to suggest that vaccines are less effective against the sub-variant, or that it increases the risk of hospitalization and death. But laboratory tests are underway at labs in the UK and Denmark to assess this.

Professor Lawrence Young from Warwick University said: 'There is no reason to suggest vaccines won't be as effective.' And Professor Anders Fomsgaard from Denmark's Covid surveillance centre said: 'We are not concerned by this. We see nothing in this point of time that indicates it is more contagious, resistant or pathogenic.'



RESOURCE

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

WWW.MCOR.ORG