

## COVID-19 Booster Shots



### Why are COVID-19 boosters important?

There are 3 kinds of COVID-19 vaccines. Two of the vaccines have two shots. They are called Moderna and Pfizer (Pfizer is also called Pfizer-BioNTech) One of the vaccines has one shot. It's called 'Johnson and Johnson' or 'J and J'.

Scientists watch and test the vaccines to make sure they keep people safe over time. Now scientists found that people who got any of the COVID-19 vaccines need another to stay safe because of the new versions of the virus, called variants.

This extra shot is called a booster shot. Over time your body needs more vaccine to keepfighting off the virus. Lots of other vaccines have booster shots, too. For example, you get a flu booster shot to keep you safe from the flu each year.

The COVID-19 booster shot is safe. It keeps you from getting very sick and dying from COVID-19.



### How do I know if I need a COVID-19 booster shot?

All of the COVID-19 shots will need a booster.

If you got one of the two-shot vaccines, called Pfizer and Moderna, you will need a booster **6 months** after your second shot. For example, if you got your second COVID-19 shot on April 1st, you should get a third shot around October 1st.

If you got the one-shot vaccine, called the Johnson and Johnson, you will need to get a booster **2 months** after your first shot. For example, If you got your Johnson & Johnson shot on August 1st, you can get your booster on October 1st.

You can check your vaccine card to see which kind of vaccine you got before. Check with your doctor to see when you should get your booster shot and what kind you should get.



## Should I get a COVID-19 booster shot now? How do I know when to get mine?

It is now recommended that everyone 12 years and older who is fully vaccinated get a booster shot. It is important to ask your doctor when you should get your COVID-19 booster shot.

Boosters are especially important for the following groups:

- Anyone 65 years or older
- Anyone 18 or older who has a medical condition
- Anyone 18 or older who lives in a long-term care facility
- Anyone 18 or older who works or lives in a high-risk places

People who have weak immune systems, the part of the body that keeps your from getting sick, may have already had their booster shot and are recommended to get it if they have not yet.

Common medical conditions that people have that might make them more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 and need a booster shot to stay safe include cancer, lung disease, heart disease, kidney disease, and diabetes (all types). It is also recommended to get a booster shot if you are overweight or obese, pregnant, or if you smoke or used to smoke.

Some common types of people who live or work in high-risk places includes doctors and nurses, teachers, police and firefighters, mailmen and women, people who work in factories, grocery store workers, and bus drivers.



## Where can I get a COVID-19 booster shot?

You will be able to get your COVID-19 booster shot at many places. You can go to pharmacies, like CVS or Walgreens. You can go to some grocery stores. Many states will also come to your home to give you a vaccine. If you are not sure where to get your shot, you can:

1. Call the DIAL help line at 888-677-1199 for free help
2. Look online at [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov)
3. Ask a trusted family member, friend, support staff, or your doctor's office for help
4. **Add local resource here**

## ? Do I have to pay for a COVID-19 booster shot?

No. All COVID-19 vaccine shots are free for everyone, everywhere. The shot is available for everyone over 12 years old.

You do not need health insurance to get a COVID-19 booster shot.

## ? What do I need to bring to get my COVID-19 booster shot?

You only need to bring your vaccination card. This is the small, white card that you were given at your first shot. The card says at the top: 'COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card'.

If you lost your vaccination card or it was damaged, you can get a new one by calling (**insert state or local health department information**).

You do NOT need your ID (like a driver's license) or health insurance.

## ? What will happen if I choose to not get a COVID-19 booster shot?

You might catch COVID-19 and get very sick.

The vaccine shots give your body lots of protection from COVID-19. Over time, the protection wears out. It is like when a car runs low on gas. A booster shot is like filling up the gas tank. You need more vaccine to avoid getting COVID-19. The booster shot protects you from getting sick.

For example, you get your flu shot each year to keep protection from getting sick from the flu.



## ? My doctor said it is not safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine because of my medical condition. Do I need to get a booster?

It is important to follow the advice of your doctor. If you are not sure, ask your doctor if the COVID-19 vaccine or COVID-19 vaccine booster shot is right for you.



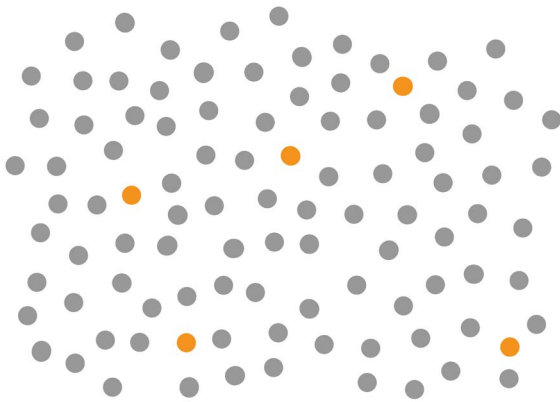
## I also want to get my flu shot this fall. Is it safe to get the flu shot and my COVID-19 shot?

Yes. It is safe to get your flu shot and a COVID-19 shot (your first, second, or booster shots). For example, you can get both shots:

- In the same appointment
- On the same day
- During the same week
- In the same month
- Or in different months



## Does this mean the vaccine does not work?



**The vaccine works about 95% of the time.**

The vaccine works about 95% of the time. This means that if 100 people got the shot, only 5 or less people should catch the virus if they are exposed to it. The shot protects people who do get the virus from getting very sick and having to go to the hospital. The vaccine also helps stop the spread of the virus to other people.