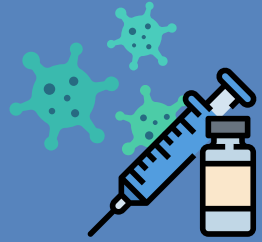


# COVID-19 BOOSTER SHOT FAQ

Frequently asked questions and answers about the COVID-19 booster dose



**APIAHF**  
ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER  
AMERICAN HEALTH FORUM

**WE  
CAN  
DO  
THIS**  
*COVID-19  
Community Corps*

## WHO CAN GET THE BOOSTER SHOT?

Individuals 12 years and older who received the:

- Pfizer vaccine are encouraged to get a booster shot **five months** after receiving their second shot in their initial series.

Individuals 18 years and older who received the:

- Moderna vaccine are encouraged to get a booster shot **five months** after receiving their second shot in their initial series.
- Johnson & Johnson vaccine are encouraged to get a booster shot **two months** after their first vaccination.

People who experienced breakthrough infections (those who test positive for COVID-19 after getting fully vaccinated) are still encouraged to receive a booster, as vaccine immunity has been found to last longer than natural immunity.

## WHY IS A BOOSTER SHOT NECESSARY?

The vaccines are working. They are safe and effective in protecting against infection, and drastically decrease chances of hospitalization and death from COVID-19. Booster shots are necessary because the protection from vaccination decreases over time. This is normal and observed in other routine vaccines like tetanus, pertussis, and diphtheria (Tdap). Booster shots maximize your protection over time.



## WHAT DOES “INITIAL OR PRIMARY SERIES” MEAN? IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN “ADDITIONAL DOSE” AND “BOOSTER DOSE”?

"Initial or primary series" refers to the two shots of Pfizer or Moderna or the one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine required to be protected from the virus. An "additional dose" of Pfizer or Moderna is encouraged for moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals 28 days after their initial series because their bodies need another shot to build the same level of immunity as non-immunocompromised people. A "booster dose" is given to people after receiving the initial or primary series to boost immunity as protection has been seen to decline over time.

## CAN I GET A DIFFERENT TYPE OF BOOSTER SHOT THAN MY INITIAL COVID-19 VACCINE?

Depending on your age, you can choose a different booster than your initial COVID-19 vaccine. You should talk to a health care professional or your local community-based organization (CBO) if you have questions about which booster vaccine you should get.



## WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE BOOSTER SHOT?

Side effects of the booster shot are similar to the initial series. This can include fever, headache, fatigue, and pain at the injection site, which are completely normal. Serious side effects are extremely rare.

## IF I AM IMMUNOCOMPROMISED, DO I NEED TO GET A BOOSTER SHOT AFTER MY ADDITIONAL DOSE?

Yes, if you are moderately to severely immunocompromised, you are encouraged to receive a booster shot 5 months after your additional dose.

## CAN I GET A BOOSTER SHOT IF I'M PREGNANT?



Yes, the COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters are safe and effective for pregnant people. You are encouraged to get a booster shot to help protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 infection and serious risks that may result from getting COVID-19 while pregnant.

## WHERE DO I GET MY BOOSTER DOSE? IS IT FREE?

You can get your booster dose at places like your health care provider, pharmacy, health department, and more. Call 1-800-232-0233 or visit [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to locate a site near you. Additionally, like the initial series, the booster shot is free for everyone, **regardless of your immigration status.** Please contact your local CBO if you need assistance.

## CAN I GET MY COVID-19 BOOSTER AND FLU SHOT AT THE SAME TIME?

Yes. Both the flu and COVID-19 vaccines can be administered at the same time, as recommended by [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) and its [Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices](https://www.cdc.gov).