

## COVID-19 Booster and Additional Doses FAQs

Below are answers to commonly asked questions about COVID-19 vaccine boosters- excerpted from CDC Frequently Asked Questions. Visit Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) website for COVID-19 information: [www.SCPH.com](http://www.SCPH.com).

### Do I need a booster dose?

COVID-19 vaccines are very effective in lowering the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death. They even work against the Delta variant. The CDC has found that this protection may wear off over time. Boosters keep the vaccines effective for longer.

### Am I still considered “fully vaccinated” if I don’t get a booster shot?

**Yes.** Everyone is still considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a 2-shot series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the J&J/Janssen vaccine.

### Who is eligible for a COVID-19 booster dose?

**Everyone 18+ who received Pfizer or Moderna** - Individuals who have completed a primary series (2 doses) of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine at least 6 months ago.

**Everyone 18+ who received Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)** - Individuals are now eligible for a booster dose 2 months after your initial dose of the J&J vaccine if you are 18 years old or older.

### Can I “mix and match” the COVID-19 vaccine?

CDC’s recommendations now allow for mix and match dosing for booster shots. Individuals who have completed a primary series (2 dose) mRNA vaccine (Pfizer and Moderna) at least 6 months ago and meet the eligibility criteria can receive a booster dose of Pfizer, Moderna, or J&J). Individuals who received one dose J&J at least 2 months ago, can get Moderna, Pfizer or J&J now. [FDA provides more about mixing and matching.](#)

### If I need a booster, does that mean that the vaccine is not working?

**No.** The 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, we are starting to see reduced protection against mild and moderate disease. For that reason, booster shots are recommended to maximize vaccine-induced protection and prolong its durability.

### How do I get booster dose?

If you are eligible for a booster dose, you can find a vaccine provider by visiting [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov), or you can text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233. You can also visit [Vaccinations for Eligible Individuals](#) for information on upcoming County clinics and vaccination FAQs. Be sure to bring your vaccination card with you so the booster dose and date can be added. If you have lost your vaccination card, contact the vaccine provider where you got your first two doses or contact SCPH at [COVID19vaccine@saccounty.net](mailto:COVID19vaccine@saccounty.net) with your name, DOB, and dates you received your first two doses.

### Is there a cost to the booster dose?

Booster and additional doses are free to receive similarly to the first 2 doses.

### Can I get a flu vaccination at the same time as my COVID-19 vaccination?

**Yes.** You can get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccinations like a flu or shingles vaccine at the same time or close together, [according to the CDC.](#)

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

An "additional dose" refers to people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised receiving an additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna). This is because they may not have received adequate protection from their initial 2-dose vaccine series.

A "booster dose" is a supplemental vaccine dose given to people who are 18 years of age and older when the immune response to a primary vaccine series was adequate but is likely to have decreased over time.

**Who Needs an Additional Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine?**

Currently, CDC is recommending that moderately to severely immunocompromised people receive an additional dose. This includes people who have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response

People should talk to their healthcare provider about their medical condition, and whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for them.