



## COVID-19

# Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines

Updated May 4, 2023

### What You Need to Know

- [Everyone aged 6 years and older](#) should get **1 updated Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine** to be [up to date](#).
- [People aged 65 years and older](#) may get a 2nd dose of updated Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.
- [People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised](#) may get additional doses of updated Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.
- [Children aged 6 months–5 years](#) may need multiple doses of COVID-19 vaccine to be [up to date](#), including at least 1 dose of updated Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, depending on the number of doses they've previously received and their age.
- COVID-19 vaccine recommendations will be updated as needed.

## Recommendation for Everyone Aged 6 Years and Older

### Get 1 updated COVID-19 vaccine

Everyone 6 years and older should get **1 updated Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine**, regardless of whether they've received any [original COVID-19 vaccines](#).

To find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you: Search [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233.

## Recommendations for People Who May Get Additional Updated COVID-19 Vaccines

Some people may get additional doses of COVID-19 vaccines:

- [People aged 65 years and older](#) may get 1 additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine 4 or more months after the 1st updated COVID-19 vaccine.
- [People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised](#) may get 1 additional dose of updated COVID-19 vaccine 2 or more months after the 1st updated COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your healthcare provider about [additional updated doses](#).

## Recommendations for Children Aged 6 Months—5 Years



AGE GROUP

6 MONTHS–4 YEARS

1st Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech**  
UPDATED VACCINE

2nd Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech**  
UPDATED VACCINE  
3–8 weeks after 1st dose

3rd Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech**  
UPDATED VACCINE  
At least 8 weeks after 2nd dose

**Up to Date:** Immediately after getting the last updated dose. Learn more about [children who got the original vaccine](#).

AGE

5 YEARS OLD

1st Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech**  
UPDATED VACCINE

**Up to Date:** Immediately after getting 1 updated dose. Learn more about [children who got the original vaccine](#).

**Children aged 6 months–4 years who got the original Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine**

- **3 doses** of the original Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine should get 1 updated Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.
- **2 doses** of the original Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine should get 1 updated Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.
- **1 dose** of the original Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine should get 2 updated Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines.
- **2 doses** of the original Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and a **3rd dose** of the updated Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine are not recommended to get another updated vaccine.

**Children aged 5 years who got the original Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine**

Children aged 5 years who got:

- **1 or more doses** of the original Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine should get 1 updated Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

**Read more:** [COVID-19 vaccination schedule for children](#)

[Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine Overview](#)



AGE GROUP

6 MONTHS–5 YEARS

1st Dose  
**Moderna**  
UPDATED VACCINE

2nd Dose  
**Moderna**  
UPDATED VACCINE  
4–8 weeks after 1st dose

**Up to Date:** Immediately after getting the last updated dose. Learn more about [children aged 6 months–4 years](#) and [children aged 5 years](#) who got the original vaccine.

## Children aged 6 months–4 years who got the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

Children aged 6 months—4 years who got:

- **2 doses** of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should get 1 updated Moderna vaccine.
- **1 dose** of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should get 1 updated Moderna vaccine.
- **2 doses** of the original Moderna vaccine and a **3rd dose** of the updated Moderna vaccine are not recommended to get another updated vaccine.

## Children aged 5 years who got the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

Children aged 5 years who got:

- **2 doses** of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should get 1 updated Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.
- **1 dose** of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should get 1 updated Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.
- **2 doses** of the original Moderna vaccine and a **3rd dose** of an updated vaccine are not recommended to get another updated vaccine.

**Read more:** [COVID-19 vaccination schedule for children](#)

[Moderna Vaccine Overview](#)

# Recommendation for People Who May Want Another COVID-19 Vaccine Option

People 12 years and older who are **unable or choose not to get** an updated Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine can consider other options to get up to date:

## Novavax



AGE GROUP

12 YEARS AND OLDER

1st Dose  
**Novavax**  
PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose  
**Novavax**  
PRIMARY SERIES  
3–8 weeks after 1st dose  
**More details:** [Getting your 2nd dose](#)

3rd Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna**  
UPDATED VACCINE  
At least 2 months after 2nd primary series dose

A Novavax booster is available in limited situations  
**More details:** [Novavax booster](#)

**Up to Date:** Immediately after getting the Novavax doses approved for your age group.

## Novavax 2nd dose

People aged 12–64 years:

- People in this age group, especially **males aged 12 through 39 years**, may consider getting the 2nd dose of Novavax **8 weeks after the 1st dose**.
- A longer time between the 1st and 2nd doses may increase how much protection the vaccines offer, and further minimize the rare risk of [myocarditis and pericarditis](#).

People aged 65 years and older or people more [likely to get very sick](#) from COVID-19 should get the 2nd dose of Novavax COVID-19 vaccine 3 weeks after the 1st dose.

## Novavax booster

You may get a Novavax booster **if** you are unable or unwilling to receive a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna updated COVID-19 booster **and** you meet the following requirements:

- You are 18 years of age or older
- You completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series at least 6 months ago
- You have **not** gotten any other COVID-19 vaccine

Novavax is not authorized as a booster dose at this time for teens aged 12–17 years.

[Novavax Vaccine Overview](#)

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## Johnson and Johnson's Janssen



CDC recommends that the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine only be [considered in certain situations](#), due to safety concerns.

AGE GROUP

18 YEARS AND OLDER

1st Dose  
**J&J/Janssen**  
PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose  
**Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna**  
UPDATED VACCINE  
At least 2 months after 2nd primary series dose

A J&J/Janssen booster is available in limited situations

**More details:** [J&J/Janssen booster](#)

**Up to Date:** Immediately after you have received the most recent dose recommended for you.

[J&J/Janssen Vaccine Overview](#)

# When Are You Up to Date?

## Everyone aged 6 years and older

You are up to date when you get **1 updated Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine**.

## Children aged 6 months—5 years who got the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine

You are up to date if you are:

- Aged 6 Months—4 years and you get 3 COVID-19 vaccine doses, including at least 1 updated COVID-19 dose.
- Aged 5 years and you get at least 1 updated COVID-19 vaccine dose.

## Children aged 6 months—5 years who got the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

You are up to date when you get 2 Moderna COVID-19 vaccine doses, including at least 1 updated COVID-19 vaccine dose.

## People who are unable or choose not to get a recommended mRNA vaccine

You are up to date when you get the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine doses approved for your age group.

# About COVID-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States are effective at protecting people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying. As with other vaccine-preventable diseases, you are best protected best from COVID-19 when you stay up to date with the recommended vaccinations.

Four COVID-19 vaccines are approved or authorized in the United States:

- Pfizer-BioNTech
- Moderna
- Novavax
- Johnson & Johnson's Janssen (J&J/Janssen) (CDC recommends that the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine only be [considered in certain situations](#), due to safety concerns.)

# Updated and Original COVID-19 Vaccines

## Updated vaccines

The updated vaccines are called "updated" because they protect against **both** the original virus that causes COVID-19 **and** the Omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5. Two COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers, Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, have developed updated COVID-19 vaccines.

### When did updated vaccines become available?



- September 2, 2022, for people aged 12 years and older
- October 12, 2022, for people aged 5–11 years
- December 9, 2022, for children aged 6 months–5 years who completed the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine primary series and for children aged 6 months–4 years who got 2 doses of the original Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine
- March 17, 2023, for children aged 6 months–4 years who completed their 3-dose primary series with the original Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine

## Original vaccines

Previous COVID-19 vaccines are called "original" because they were designed to protect against the original virus that causes COVID-19.

As of April 18, 2023, the original Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are no longer authorized for use by the FDA in the United States. Updated Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are being used for all age groups.

## Getting Vaccines If You Had or Currently Have COVID-19

If you recently had COVID-19, you still need to stay up to date with your vaccines, but you **may** consider delaying your next vaccine dose by 3 months from:

- when your symptoms started.
- or, if you had no symptoms, when you first received a positive test.

Reinfection is less likely in the weeks to months after infection. However, certain factors could be reasons to get a vaccine sooner rather than later, such as:

- personal risk of severe disease,
- or risk of disease in a loved one or close contact,
- local [COVID-19 Community Level](#),
- and the most common [COVID-19 variant](#) currently causing illness.



### Learn About Getting Your Vaccine

- Do you need to wait to get vaccinated after getting COVID-19 or getting treatment for COVID-19?
- How can you prepare for vaccination?
- What can you expect during and after your vaccination?

[Getting Your COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

## Vaccination Received Outside the United States

COVID-19 vaccines available abroad that are accepted in the United States as valid vaccinations [^](#)

[Vaccines approved or authorized](#) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) currently include:

- Pfizer-BioNTech
- Moderna
- Novavax
- Johnson & Johnson's Janssen

Vaccines listed for emergency use by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) [^](#) currently include those that are listed above and the following:

- [AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine](#) [^](#)
- [Sinopharm](#) [^](#)
- [Sinovac](#) [^](#)
- [COVAXIN](#) [^](#)
- [Covovax](#) [^](#)
- [CanSino](#) [^](#)

## If You Receive a Vaccine That is Not in the U.S. Accepted List Above

- Wait at least 28 days after the last dose you received of that vaccine then start COVID-19 vaccination over with a COVID-19 vaccine that has been approved or authorized by the FDA.
- If the FDA has not approved or authorized a vaccine there may be limited data available or reviewed on the safety or effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine.

**Read more:** [Interim clinical considerations for people who received vaccines abroad](#)

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### Proof of vaccination card in the United States ^

The white CDC [COVID-19 vaccination cards](#) are issued only to people vaccinated in the United States. CDC recommends that people vaccinated outside of the United States keep their documentation of being vaccinated in another country as proof of vaccination. CDC does not keep vaccination records nor determine how vaccination records are used. People can update their records with vaccines they received while outside of the United States by:

- Contacting the [immunization information system \(IIS\)](#) in their state.
- Contacting their healthcare provider or local or state immunization program through their [state's health department](#).

Learn more about [COVID-19 vaccination cards](#).

**For Healthcare Workers:** Learn more about the recommendations for [people vaccinated outside of the United States](#).

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#### For Healthcare and Public Health

[Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States: Interim Clinical Considerations](#)

Last Updated May 4, 2023