



COVID-19

COVID-19 Vaccines for People Who Are Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised

Updated Feb. 24, 2023

As of January 26, 2023, EVUSHELD™ is not currently authorized for emergency use because it is unlikely to be active against the majority of SARS-CoV-2 variants circulating in the United States.

What You Need to Know

- If you are [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#) (have a weakened immune system), you are at increased risk of severe COVID-19 illness and death. Additionally, your immune response to COVID-19 vaccination may not be as strong as in people who are not immunocompromised.
- As with vaccines for other diseases, you are protected best when you stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines for your age group:
 - [Children and teens aged 6 months–17 years](#)
 - [Adults aged 18 years and older](#)
- COVID-19 vaccine and booster recommendations may be updated as CDC continues to monitor the latest COVID-19 data.

Children and teens aged 6 months–17 years

Pfizer-BioNTech



AGE GROUP

6 MONTHS–4 YEARS

1st Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech
PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech
PRIMARY SERIES
3 weeks after 1st dose

3rd Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech
UPDATED PRIMARY SERIES
At least 8 weeks after 2nd dose

Up to Date: 2 weeks after 3rd primary dose; there is not a recommendation for an updated Pfizer-BioNTech booster for this age group.

More details: [Staying up to date](#)

AGE GROUP

5–11 YEARS

1st Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech
PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech
PRIMARY SERIES
3 weeks after 1st dose

3rd Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech
PRIMARY SERIES
At least 4 weeks after 2nd dose

4th Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech
UPDATED BOOSTER
At least 2 months after 3rd dose.
Children aged 5 years **can only get a Pfizer-BioNTech booster**, and children aged 6–11 years can get a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna booster.

Up to Date: Immediately after the most recent booster recommended for you.

More details: [Staying up to date](#)

AGE GROUP

12–17 YEARS

1st Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech
PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech
PRIMARY SERIES
3 weeks after 1st dose

3rd Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech
PRIMARY SERIES
At least 4 weeks after 2nd dose

4th Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna
UPDATED BOOSTER
At least 2 months after 3rd dose or last booster

Up to Date: Immediately after the most recent booster recommended for you.

More details: [Staying up to date](#)

Moderna


AGE GROUP

6 MONTHS–5 YEARS

1st Dose
Moderna
 PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose
Moderna
 PRIMARY SERIES
 4 weeks after 1st dose

3rd Dose
Moderna
 PRIMARY SERIES
 At least 4 weeks after 2nd dose

4th Dose
Moderna
 UPDATED BOOSTER
 At least 2 months after 3rd dose, children aged 6 months–4 years can only get a **Moderna updated booster**, and children aged 5 years can get a **Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna updated booster**.

Up to Date: Immediately after they have received an updated booster.

More details: [Staying up to date](#).

AGE GROUP

6–11 YEARS

1st Dose
Moderna
 PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose
Moderna
 PRIMARY SERIES
 4 weeks after 1st dose

3rd Dose
Moderna
 PRIMARY SERIES
 At least 4 weeks after 2nd dose

4th Dose
Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech
 UPDATED BOOSTER
 At least 2 months after 3rd dose or last booster

Up to Date: Immediately after the most recent booster recommended for you.

More details: [Staying up to date](#)

AGE GROUP

12–17 YEARS

1st Dose
Moderna
 PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose
Moderna
 PRIMARY SERIES
 4 weeks after 1st dose

3rd Dose
Moderna
 PRIMARY SERIES
 At least 4 weeks after 2nd dose

4th Dose

Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 3rd dose or last booster

Up to Date: Immediately after the most recent booster recommended for you.

More details: [Staying up to date](#)

Novavax



AGE GROUP

12–17 YEARS

1st Dose

Novavax

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

Novavax

PRIMARY SERIES

3 weeks after 1st dose

3rd Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 2nd dose

Up to Date: Immediately after the most recent booster recommended for you.

More details: [Staying up to date](#)

Adults aged 18 years and older

Pfizer-BioNTech



AGE GROUP

18 YEARS AND OLDER

1st Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech

PRIMARY SERIES

3 weeks after 1st dose

3rd Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech

PRIMARY SERIES

At least 4 weeks after 2nd dose

4th Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 3rd dose

Up to Date: Immediately after the most recent booster recommended for you.

More details: [Staying up to date](#)

Moderna



AGE GROUP

18 YEARS AND OLDER

1st Dose

Moderna

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

Moderna

PRIMARY SERIES

4 weeks after 1st dose

3rd Dose

Moderna

PRIMARY SERIES

At least 4 weeks after 2nd dose

4th Dose

Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 3rd dose

Up to Date: Immediately after the most recent booster recommended for you.

More details: [Staying up to date](#)

Novavax



AGE GROUP

18 YEARS AND OLDER

1st Dose

Novavax

PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

Novavax

PRIMARY SERIES

3 weeks after 1st dose

3rd Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna

UPDATED BOOSTER

At least 2 months after 2nd dose

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

Up to Date: Immediately after the most recent booster recommended for you.

More details: [Staying up to date](#)

Johnson & Johnson's Janssen ▼

AGE GROUP

18 YEARS AND OLDER

1st Dose

J&J/Janssen
PRIMARY SERIES

2nd Dose

J&J/Janssen
ADDITIONAL DOSE
At least 4 weeks after 1st dose
and should be Pfizer-BioNTech
or Moderna

3rd Dose

Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna
UPDATED BOOSTER
At least 2 months after 2nd dose
or last booster

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

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

Up to Date: Immediately after the most recent booster recommended for you.

More details: [Staying up to date](#)

Staying up to date: If you have completed your primary series—but are not yet eligible for a booster—you are also considered up to date.

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

Who Is Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised?

Some people are [immunocompromised](#) (have a weakened immune system) due to a medical condition or from receipt of immunosuppressive medications or treatments. Learn more about [which medical conditions](#) put you at increased risk of severe COVID-19 illness and death. You can self-attest to your moderately or severely immunocompromised status, which means you do not need any documentation of your status to receive COVID-19 vaccine doses you might be eligible to receive.

Use [CDC's COVID-19 booster tool](#) to learn if and when you can get an updated booster to stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines.

People Who Were Vaccinated Outside of the United States

People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and who received COVID-19 vaccines not available in the United States should either complete or restart the recommended COVID-19 vaccine series, including a booster, in the United States. For more information, talk to your healthcare provider, or see the [COVID-19 Interim Clinical Considerations](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

Can you mix the vaccines for your mRNA primary vaccination series?

No, vaccines used for the primary vaccination series should be the same product or brand. However, if the mRNA vaccine product given for the first two doses is not available or is unknown, either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) may be administered for the third primary dose.

What are the benefits of a third primary dose for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and received two doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine?

A third primary dose may prevent serious and possibly life-threatening COVID-19 in people who may not have responded to their two-dose mRNA COVID-19 vaccine primary series. People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised who have low or no protection after two doses of mRNA vaccines may have an improved immune response after a third primary dose of the same vaccine.

What are the risks of vaccinating people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised with a third primary dose?

The safety, effectiveness, and benefit of the third primary dose in people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised continues to be evaluated. So far, reactions reported after the third primary dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine are similar to those of the two-dose primary series. Fatigue and pain at the injection site were the most commonly reported side effects—and overall, most symptoms were mild and temporary.

As with the two-dose primary series, [serious side effects are rare](#), but may occur.

What is the difference between a third primary dose and a booster?

For people who are immunocompromised, the third primary dose is the final dose of the primary series of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. Boosters are shots that enhance or restore protection against COVID-19, which may have decreased over time.

When are people who have weakened immune systems considered up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines?

People can stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccination by completing a primary series and receiving the most recent booster dose recommended for them by CDC. The people you live or spend time with can help protect you and themselves by staying up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines too.

Do people who are up to date and get sick with COVID-19 need to get more COVID-19 vaccines immediately? ✓

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 (whether a primary dose or booster) 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.



For Healthcare and Public Health Professionals

- [Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized or Approved in the United States](#)

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