WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A "BOOSTER DOSE" AND AN "ADDITIONAL DOSE"?

**Booster Dose:**
A booster dose is an extra dose for those whose immune response may have weakened over time. This booster can help "reinvigorate" the protection initially provided.

**Why should I get a booster dose?** A booster shot of the COVID-19 vaccine helps boost protection over time.

**Who should get a booster?**
The use of a single booster dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine may be administered after the completion of the primary series to individuals:

- People age 65 and older
- People ages 18-64 years old at high risk of severe COVID-19
- People ages 18-64 years old with frequent institutional or occupational exposure to COVID-19
  - Residents of long-term care facilities
  - First responders (healthcare workers, firefighters, police, congregate care staff)
  - Education staff (teachers, support staff, daycare workers)
  - Food and agriculture workers
  - Manufacturing workers
  - Corrections workers
  - U.S. Postal Service workers
  - Public transit workers
  - Grocery store workers

**When should I get a booster?**
For Pfizer and Moderna, the booster should be given at least 6 months after completion of the two-dose vaccine series. For Johnson and Johnson (Janssen), the booster may be administered at least two months after initial dose.

**Can you “Mix and Match” vaccine brands for the booster dose?**
Yes, the FDA has authorized the use of available COVID-19 vaccines as heterologous (mix and matched) booster dose in eligible individuals following completion of primary vaccination with a different available COVID-19 Vaccine.
**ADDITIONAL DOSE:**

An *additional dose* is an extra dose of the vaccine for those that are severely immunocompromised, who may have not had a strong enough immune response to the first two doses of Pfizer or Moderna. This is given at least 28 days after the initial two doses.

**Who should get it?** Moderately to severely immunocompromised people who previously received two doses of Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. 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

**Which vaccine do I get?** People who qualify are recommended to get an additional dose of the same Moderna or Pfizer vaccine they received for their first two doses. If a person can’t get the same vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer) they received for their first two doses, they can get the other. *(Johnson & Johnson vaccine has not been approved for an additional dose at this time)*

**When should I get it?** People who qualify should get an additional dose at least 28 days after their second dose. The additional dose is the same formulation as the first two doses.

**Why should I get an additional dose?** A third dose of Moderna or Pfizer vaccine helps build more protection for people who may not have received enough protection from the first two doses.

**RESOURCES**

For more information, resources, and patient handouts (translated languages coming soon!), click [here](#).

**CAN YOU GIVE FLU SHOT AND BOOSTER/ADDITIONAL DOSE AT THE SAME TIME?**

COVID-19 vaccines may be administered without regard to timing of other vaccines. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines on the same day.

If multiple vaccines are administered at a single visit, administer each injection in a different injection site. For adolescents and adults, the deltoid muscle can be used for more than one intramuscular injection administered at different sites in the muscle.

- **Best practices** for multiple injections include:
  - Label each syringe with the name and the dosage (amount) of the vaccine, lot number, the initials of the preparer, and the exact beyond-use time, if applicable.
  - Separate injection sites by 1 inch or more, if possible.
  - **Administer the COVID-19 vaccines and vaccines that may be more likely to cause a local reaction in different limbs, if possible.**
**Social Media**

***What's the Difference?***

**Booster**

**Who?** Certain at-risk populations whose immune response may have weakened over time who completed a 2-dose vaccine series will be eligible for the booster.

**What?** Eligible COVID-19 vaccine recipients should get a booster shot

**When?** At least six months after their first two doses of Pfizer or Moderna & at least two months after Johnson and Johnson (Janssen) vaccine.

**Additional Dose**

**Who?** People who are moderately to severely immunocompromised

**What?** A third dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine is recommended

**When?** The third dose should be given at least 28 days after the initial two-dose vaccine series

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*SOURCES:

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**FIND OUT MORE AT CDC.GOV & VACCINES.GOV**