

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



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October 22, 2021

CDC Expands Eligibility for COVID-19 Booster Shots

Thursday, October 21, 2021, CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., endorsed the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation for a booster shot of COVID-19 vaccines in certain populations. The [Food and Drug Administration's \(FDA\) authorization](#) and CDC's recommendation for use are important steps forward as we work to stay ahead of the virus and keep Americans safe.

For individuals who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at 6 months or more after their initial series:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in [long-term care settings](#)
- Age 18+ who have [underlying medical conditions](#)
- Age 18+ who work or live in [high-risk settings](#)

Additionally, booster shots are recommended for everyone 18 and older at least 2 months after receiving their J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine.

Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type that they originally received and others, may prefer to get a different booster. CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Will booster shots be the same formulation as existing vaccines?

A: Yes, COVID-19 booster shots are the same formulation as the current COVID-19 vaccines. However, in the case of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine booster shot, it is half the dose of the vaccine people get for their initial series.

Q: Will providers accept anyone who says they're eligible to receive a booster shot? Will people need to show a doctor's note/prescription or other documentation?

A: Individuals can self-report that they are eligible and receive a booster shot wherever vaccines are offered. This will help ensure there are not additional barriers to access for this vulnerable population receiving their booster shot.

Q: Does this change the definition of "fully vaccinated" for those eligible for booster shots?

A: No. At this time, people are still considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second

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dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the J&J/Janssen vaccine.

Q: Where will boosters be available?

A: For those eligible, getting a booster shot is convenient, and as simple as visiting your local pharmacy or doctor's office. If you are unable to get the booster at your original vaccine location, [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) can make the process easier. This free resource provides accurate and up-to-date information about vaccination services in your area. You can also text your zip code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find locations near you in the U.S.

Q: Is it safe to co-administer COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines, like flu?

A: Yes, if a patient is eligible, both flu and COVID-19 vaccines can be administered at the same visit, as [recommended by CDC and ACIP](#). In addition to flu vaccine, COVID-19 vaccine can be given with other vaccines as well.

Should you have additional questions, please call the Maine Immunization Program at 207-287-3746.