



An additional dose is intended to improve immunocompromised people's response to their initial vaccine series. A booster dose is given to people when the immune response to a primary vaccine series is likely to have waned over time.

Additional Dose:

People who are moderately to severely immunocompromised need an additional dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least 28 days after the initial two doses.

Booster Shot:

Certain populations need a booster shot of Pfizer vaccine at least 6 months after completion of their two-dose Pfizer vaccine series.

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Additional Dose vs. Booster Shot

Booster Shot

Sometimes people have a good response to an initial vaccination but the protection may decrease over time. When this happens, a [booster shot](#) can help “re-invigorate” protection.

- **Who:** Residents aged 18 years and older in long-term care settings, people age 65 and older, people aged 50–64 years with underlying medical conditions, and other groups at high risk of exposure.
 - Who **should** get a Pfizer booster:
 - Residents of long-term care facilities who are age 18 and older
 - People age 65 and older
 - People ages 50-64 years old with underlying medical conditions
 - Who **may** get a Pfizer booster:
 - People ages 18-49 with underlying medical conditions
 - People ages 18-64 whose work or living situation increases their risk of exposure or transmission:
 - 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
- **What:** People who qualify are recommended to get a booster dose of Pfizer vaccine. The additional dose is the same formulation as the first two doses. Boosters are currently only authorized for people who received Pfizer for their first two doses. Another vaccine type is not recommended to be substituted.
- **When:** People who qualify should get a booster shot of Pfizer at least six months after their first two doses of Pfizer.
- **Where:** Anywhere vaccines are offered, including Houston Health Department sites.
- **Why:** A booster shot of Pfizer vaccine helps boost protection over time.

Additional Dose

Sometimes people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised do not build enough protection when they get vaccinated. When this happens, getting an [additional dose](#) of the vaccine can help them build more protection.

- **Who:** 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
- **What:** 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. (People who received Johnson & Johnson vaccine should not get an additional dose at this time.)
- **When:** 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.
- **Where:** Anywhere vaccines are offered, including Houston Health Department sites.
- **Why:** 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.

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