

AMS VACCINE FAQ

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Booster Facts

Q: When can I get my booster shot?

A: COVID-19 Vaccine booster shots are available for the following [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) or [Moderna](#) vaccine recipients who completed their initial series *at least 6 months* ago and are:

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

For the nearly 15 million people who got the [Johnson & Johnson](#) COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are also recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated *two or more months* ago.

Source: CDC

Q: What is the difference between a booster shot and an additional dose?

A: A booster shot is administered when a person has completed their vaccine series and protection against the virus has decreased over time. Additional doses are administered to people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems. This additional dose of an mRNA-COVID-19 vaccine is intended to improve [immunocompromised people's](#) response to their initial vaccine series.

Source: CDC

Q: Am I still considered “fully vaccinated” if I don’t get a booster shot?

A: **Yes.** Everyone is still considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a 2-shot series, such as the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the J&J/Janssen vaccine.

Source: CDC

Q: If we need a booster shot, does that mean vaccines aren’t working?

A: **No.** [COVID-19 vaccines are working well](#) to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death, even against the widely circulating [Delta variant](#). However, public health experts are starting to see reduced protection, especially among certain populations, against mild and moderate disease

Source: CDC

Q: When can I get a booster if I am NOT in one of the recommended categories?

A: Additional populations may be recommended to receive a booster shot as more data become available. The [COVID-19 vaccines approved and authorized in the United States](#) continue to be [effective](#) at reducing the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death. Experts are looking at all available data to understand how well the vaccines are working for different populations. This includes looking at how new variants, like Delta, affect vaccine effectiveness.

Source: CDC

Q: Does my booster shot need to be the same type as my first set of vaccination doses?

A: There are now booster recommendations for [all three](#) available COVID-19 vaccines in the United States. 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.

Source: CDC

Q: Which booster is the most effective?

A: Available data right now shows that all three of the [COVID-19 vaccines approved or authorized in the United States](#) continue to be [highly effective](#) in reducing the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, even against the widely circulating [Delta variant](#). Vaccination remains the best way to protect yourself and reduce the spread of the virus and help prevent new variants from emerging.

Source: CDC

Child Vaccination Facts

Q: What ages can receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

A: The CDC recommends everyone ages 5 and older get a COVID-19 vaccine to help protect against COVID-19. Widespread vaccination for COVID-19 is a critical tool to best protect everyone, especially those at highest risk, from severe illness and death. People who are fully vaccinated can safely resume many activities that they did prior to the pandemic. Children ages 5 years and older are able to get an age-appropriate dose of [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#).

Source: CDC

Q: Aren't children immune to COVID-19?

A: **No.** Although children are at a lower risk of becoming severely ill with COVID-19 compared with adults, children can:

- Be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19
- Get very sick from COVID-19
- Have both short and long-term health complications from COVID-19
- Spread COVID-19 to others
- As of October 2021, nearly 700 children have died from COVID-19

Children with [underlying medical conditions](#) are more at risk for severe illness from COVID-19 compared with children without underlying medical conditions. Children who get infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 can also develop serious complications like [multisystem inflammatory syndrome \(MIS-C\)](#)—a condition where different body parts become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs.

Source: CDC

Q: Will my child receive the same vaccination dosage as an adult?

A: Vaccination dosage varies by age on day of vaccination rather than by weight.

- Adolescents ages 12 years and older receive the same dosage of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine as adults.
- The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children ages 5 through 11 years has the same active ingredients as the vaccine given to adults and adolescents. However, children ages 5 through 11 years cannot get the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine given to adults and adolescents. In addition, children ages 5 through 11 years receive an age-appropriate dose that is one-third of the adult dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Smaller needles, designed specifically for children, are also used for children ages 5 through 11 years.
- Your child will need a second shot of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine three weeks after their first shot.

Source: CDC

Q: What should I do before my child receives the COVID-19 vaccination?

A: While no action is required before your child receives the vaccine, there are a few things you can do to assist in the process.

- Talk to your child before vaccination about [what to expect](#).
- It is not recommended you give pain relievers before vaccination to try to

prevent side effects.

- Tell the doctor or nurse about any allergies your child may have.
- To prevent fainting and injuries related to fainting, your child should be seated or lying down during vaccination and for 15 minutes after the vaccine is given.
- After your child's COVID-19 vaccination, you will be asked to stay for 15–30 minutes so your child can be observed in case they have a severe allergic reaction and need immediate treatment.

Source: CDC

Q: Should I be concerned when my child experiences side-effects??

A: Your child may have some [side effects](#), which are normal signs that their body is building protection.

These side effects may affect your child's ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Some people have no side effects and severe allergic reactions are rare. If your child [experiences a severe allergic reaction](#) after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, vaccine providers can rapidly provide care and call for emergency medical services, if needed.

Ask your child's healthcare provider for advice on using a non-aspirin pain reliever and other steps you can take at home after your child gets vaccinated. In general, aspirin is not recommended for use in children and adolescents less than 18 years of age. Placing a cool, damp cloth on the injection site can help with discomfort.

Source: CDC

Vaccine Facts

Q: How many doses of the vaccine will I need to get?

A: The number of vaccine doses needed depends on which vaccine you receive. To

get the most protection:

- Two doses of [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) vaccine should be given 3 weeks (21 days) apart.
- Two doses of the [Moderna](#) vaccine should be given 4 weeks (28 days) apart.
- Only one dose of Johnson & Johnson's Jansen ([J&J/Janssen](#)) vaccine should be given.

If you receive a vaccine that requires two doses, you should [get your second shot as close to the recommended interval as possible](#). However, your second dose may be given up to 6 weeks (42 days) after the first dose. You should not get the second dose earlier than the recommended interval.

COVID-19 vaccines are not interchangeable. If you received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, you should get the same product for your second shot.

Source: CDC

Q: How long does protection from the COVID-19 vaccine last?

A: It's not yet known how long COVID-19 vaccine protection lasts. Recent studies show that protection against the virus may decrease over time. This reduction in protection has led the CDC to recommend certain groups get a booster shot at least 6 months after completing their initial vaccination series.

Source: CDC

Q: How long do I need to wait after getting a flu vaccine or another vaccine before getting the COVID-19 vaccine?

A: You can get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines, including a [flu vaccine](#), at the same visit. Experience with other vaccines has shown that the way our bodies develop protection, known as an immune response, and possible side effects after

getting vaccinated are generally the same when given alone or with other vaccines. Learn more about [the timing of other vaccines](#).

Source: CDC

Q: Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe even though the vaccines were developed rapidly?

A: While COVID-19 vaccines were developed rapidly, all steps were taken to make sure they are safe and effective:

- Approach to Development – Scientists have been working for many years to develop vaccines against viruses like the one that causes COVID-19. This knowledge helped speed up the initial development of the current COVID-19 vaccines.
- Clinical Trials – All vaccines in the United States must go through [three phases of clinical trials](#) to make sure they are safe and effective. During the development of COVID-19 vaccines, phases overlapped to speed up the process, but all phases were completed.
- Authorization or Approval – Before vaccines are available to people, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) assesses the findings from clinical trials. The FDA determined that [three COVID-19 vaccines](#) met FDA’s safety and effectiveness standards and granted those vaccines [Emergency Use Authorizations \(EUAs\)](#).
- This allowed the vaccines to be quickly distributed to control the pandemic. Pfizer-BioNTech (COMIRNATY) COVID-19 vaccine has now been [FDA approved](#) for people ages 16 years and older. Read more about [the first COVID-19 vaccine to receive FDA approval](#)
- Manufacturing and Distribution – The U.S. government has invested substantial resources to manufacture and distribute COVID-19 vaccines. This allowed vaccine distribution to begin as soon as the FDA authorized each vaccine.

- Tracking Safety Using Vaccine Monitoring Systems – COVID-19 vaccine safety monitoring has been the most intense and comprehensive in U.S. history. Hundreds of millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines. Through several [monitoring systems](#), the CDC and FDA continue to provide updated information on the [safety of these vaccines](#).

Learn more about [developing COVID-19 vaccines](#).

Source: CDC

Q: If you have had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine?

A: Yes, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 because:

- Research has not yet shown how long you are protected from getting COVID-19 again after you recover from COVID-19.
- Vaccination helps protect you even if you've already had COVID-19.

Evidence is emerging that people get better protection by being fully vaccinated compared with having had COVID-19. [One study](#) showed that unvaccinated people who already had COVID-19 are more than 2 times as likely than fully vaccinated people to get COVID-19 again.

Source: CDC

Q: Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I am fully vaccinated?

A: After you are fully vaccinated for COVID-19, take these steps to protect yourself and others:

- In general, you do not need to wear a mask in outdoor settings.
- If you are in an area with [high numbers of COVID-19 cases](#), consider wearing a mask in crowded outdoor settings and when you are in [close](#)

- [contact](#) with others who are not fully vaccinated.
- If you have a condition or are taking medications that weaken your immune system, you may not be fully protected even if you are fully vaccinated. You should continue to take all [precautions recommended for unvaccinated people, including wearing a well-fitted mask](#), until advised otherwise by their healthcare provider.
 - If you are fully vaccinated, to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area [of substantial or high transmission](#).

Source: CDC

Vaccination Myths

Q: Do COVID-19 vaccines contain microchips?

A: **No. COVID-19 vaccines do not contain microchips.** Vaccines are developed to fight against disease and are not administered to track your movement. Vaccines work by stimulating your immune system to produce antibodies, exactly like it would if you were exposed to the disease. After getting vaccinated, you develop immunity to that disease, without having to get the disease first.

View full list of ingredients [here](#).

Source: CDC

Q: Can being near someone who received the COVID-19 vaccine affect my menstrual cycle?

A: No. Your menstrual cycle cannot be affected by being near someone who received a COVID-19 vaccine.

Many things can affect menstrual cycles, including stress, changes in your schedule, problems with sleep, and changes in diet or exercise. Infections may also affect menstrual cycles.

Source: CDC

Q: Will the COVID-19 vaccination cause me to test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test?

A: **No.** None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines cause you to test positive on [viral tests](#), which are used to see if you have a current infection.

If your body develops an immune response to vaccination, which is the goal, you may test positive on some [antibody tests](#). Antibody tests indicate you had a previous infection and that you may have some level of protection against the virus.

Learn more about [the possibility of COVID-19 illness after vaccination](#)

Source: CDC

Q: Can the COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?

A: **No.** None of the authorized [COVID-19 vaccines in the United States](#) contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are signs that the body is building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. Learn more about [how COVID-19 vaccines work](#).

Source: CDC

Q: Does the COVID-19 vaccine cause magnetism?

A: No. Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine will not make you magnetic, including at the site of vaccination which is usually your arm. COVID-19 vaccines do not contain ingredients that can produce an electromagnetic field at the site of your injection. All COVID-19 vaccines are free from metals.

Source: CDC

Q: Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?

A: No. COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. Both mRNA and viral vector COVID-19 vaccines deliver instructions (genetic material) to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19.

However, the material never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept.

Source: CDC

Vaccine Safety

Q: If I am pregnant or planning to become pregnant, can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

A: **Yes**, COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people 12 years and older, including [people who are pregnant](#), breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or [might become pregnant in the future](#). You might want to have a conversation with your healthcare provider about COVID-19 vaccination. While such a conversation might be helpful, it is not required before vaccination. Learn more about [vaccination considerations for people who are pregnant or breastfeeding](#).

If you are pregnant and have received a COVID-19 vaccine, we encourage you to enroll in [v-safe](#), CDC's smartphone-based tool that provides personalized health check-ins after vaccination. A [v-safe pregnancy registry](#) has been established to gather information on the health of pregnant people who have received a COVID-19 vaccine.

Source: CDC

Q: Why should my child get vaccinated for COVID-19?

A: COVID-19 vaccination can help protect your child from getting COVID-19.

Although fewer children have been sick with COVID-19 compared to adults,

[children can be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19](#), can get sick from COVID-19 and can spread the virus that causes COVID-19 to others. Getting your child vaccinated helps to protect your child and your family. Vaccination is now [recommended for everyone 12 years and older](#). Currently, the [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#) is the only one available to children 12 years and older.

COVID-19 vaccines have been used under the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history, including studies in children 12 years and older. Your child cannot get COVID-19 from any COVID-19 vaccine. Like adults, children may have some [side effects](#) after COVID-19 vaccination. These side effects may affect their ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

Source: CDC

Q: Does the COVID-19 vaccine affect fertility?

A: Currently no evidence shows that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause fertility problems (problems trying to get pregnant) in women or men. Learn more about [COVID-19 vaccines and people who would like to have a baby](#).

Q: Can COVID-19 vaccines cause variants?

A: **No.** COVID-19 vaccines do not create or cause variants of the virus that causes COVID-19.

New variants of a virus happen because the virus that causes COVID-19 constantly changes through a natural ongoing process of mutation (change). Even before the COVID-19 vaccines, there were several variants of the virus. Looking ahead, variants are expected to continue to emerge as the virus continues to change.

COVID-19 vaccines can help prevent new variants from emerging. As it spreads, the virus has more opportunities to change. High vaccination coverage in a population reduces the spread of the virus and helps prevent new variants from emerging. CDC recommends that everyone 12 years of age and older get vaccinated as soon as possible.



Source: CDC