

Fact Sheet

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have authorized a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine for fully vaccinated people at highest risk for serious outcomes to maximize ongoing protection against COVID-19. At this time, recipients of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are not eligible for booster doses, pending ongoing evaluation. Immunocompromised individuals who meet certain, specific criteria and received an mRNA vaccine (either Pfizer or Moderna) are already eligible for a third dose at least 28 days after the second dose to strengthen the initial immune response.

Who Is Eligible For Pfizer/Comirnaty Booster Doses

Those currently eligible for a Pfizer/Comirnaty booster dose, at least six months following completion of their primary Pfizer series, include:

- **People 65 years and older or residents in long-term care settings SHOULD** receive a booster shot.
- **People ages 50 to 64 with certain underlying medical conditions SHOULD** receive a booster shot.
- **People ages 18 to 49 with certain underlying medical conditions MAY** receive a booster shot based on their individual benefits and risks. The CDC has indicated that this is a determination made by the vaccine recipient.
- **People age 18 and older who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of their job or living in an institutional setting MAY** receive a booster shot based on their individual benefits and risks. The CDC has indicated that this is a determination made by the vaccine recipient.

At this time, booster doses are authorized only for fully vaccinated Pfizer vaccine recipients who are at high-risk for exposure to COVID-19 or the complications from severe disease.

When and Where To Be Vaccinated

Effective immediately, Ohio's more than 3,500 enrolled COVID-19 vaccine providers can begin to offer boosters to eligible Ohioans. There will be many opportunities in Ohio to be vaccinated, including at pharmacies, federally qualified health centers, doctor's offices, community vaccination sites, and local health departments. There is ample supply of vaccine for boosters, as well as first and second doses, for Ohioans. Ohioans will be able to check gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov for the latest eligibility information and to find a vaccine provider near them. Eligible booster recipients will be asked to attest they have one of the qualifying conditions, but specific proof will not be required. Specifically, eligible Ohioans will be able to visit the following types of providers to be vaccinated:

- **Long-term care facility or congregate living residents and staff** – facilities will administer vaccines to residents and staff, specifically, nursing homes and assisted living facilities will utilize Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccine Maintenance Program, and state-owned institutional settings and veterans homes will vaccinate eligible staff and residents.
- **Other eligible Ohioans not listed above** – Eligible Ohioans can find a provider and schedule an appointment at gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov.
 - Most pharmacies will offer either walk-in or scheduled appointments.
 - Local health departments in some of our largest cities will offer special community vaccination sites, and health departments in virtually every county are prepared to offer booster doses, including to homebound individuals.
 - Community health centers and participating primary care providers will also offer booster doses.

If you are eligible, please allow 2-3 weeks to get your booster dose. There will be many opportunities to be vaccinated in your community, whether you walk in to get your third dose or make an appointment with a nearby provider.

You Are Encouraged To Bring your COVID-19 Vaccine Card to Your Appointment

Ohioans are encouraged to bring their existing COVID-19 vaccine card to be updated. If you cannot find your vaccine card, you should first contact your original vaccine provider to see if they can locate your records. If they are unable to assist, please contact your local health department. If they are unable to assist, please review this information on [how to mail a request for your vaccination records to the Ohio Department of Health](#). You will not be able to obtain a new vaccine card by request, but will be able to access your vaccination records. If you do not have your original vaccine card, you can still receive your booster dose.

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For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov. For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at 1-800-720-9616.