

COVID-19 Booster Shots: What Community Members Need to Know

1 What is a booster?

A booster shot is an additional dose of a vaccine you have already gotten. Sometimes, an additional vaccine dose is given when the initial immune response following the vaccine series is likely to be insufficient.

Boosters help strengthen your immunity against a disease, especially if a vaccine's effectiveness fades or decreases over time. Many of us have already received booster vaccines for other diseases such as chickenpox, tetanus and whooping cough.

2 Do I need a booster shot for COVID-19?

For people who are fully vaccinated, the COVID-19 vaccines give very strong protection against hospitalizations and deaths, even against the Delta variant. Over time, vaccines provide less protection against mild and moderate COVID-19 disease in certain populations.

Booster doses are not recommended at this time for everyone.* Health authorities have developed a plan to begin offering booster shots this fall if the FDA and CDC determine that this is needed to continue to have the maximum protection vaccines provide.

The good news is that currently available vaccines have shown to be highly effective against severe disease and death from COVID-19. If you are unvaccinated, schedule your appointment today.

3 Are vaccine companies making booster shots?

Vaccine companies are currently investigating how effective the vaccines remain against COVID-19 over time and whether booster doses are needed. They are researching and preparing for booster doses now so that they can be ready in case they are needed.

4 Will we be able to mix vaccine brands?

We aren't sure yet. We expect more guidance about this if boosters are recommended in the future.



***CDC recommends a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine for people who have had a solid organ transplant or are moderately to severely immunosuppressed. Talk to your health care provider for more information.**

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Source: CDC, FDA, NIH