

Who should receive additional COVID-19 vaccine doses? Last Updated: 08/15/21from NJDOH COVID-19 Info Hub

People with moderately to severely compromised immune systems who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines should receive an additional dose to ensure continued protection from the COVID-19 virus. The additional mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose should be the same vaccine product as the initial 2-dose mRNA COVID-19 primary vaccine series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna). If the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product given for the first two doses is not available, the other mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product may be administered. A person should not receive more than three mRNA COVID-19 vaccine doses.

At this time, additional doses are not recommended for anybody who is not immunocompromised and are not recommended for those vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Eligibility

People who are severely or moderately immunocompromised are eligible for an additional dose. 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

If you do not know whether you are immunocompromised or if you should get an additional dose, please ask your healthcare provider for guidance.

Additional information about immunocompromised persons and COVID-19 vaccination is available from the CDC.

When to Get a Third Dose

It is recommended that eligible individuals get their third dose if at least four weeks have passed since their previous vaccination was completed.

Where to Get a Third Dose

Any eligible person can get their third dose at any existing vaccination location without a prescription. New Jersey residency is not required. Use the Vaccine Appointment Finder to make an appointment for your third dose at any vaccination location. There is currently widespread vaccine availability across the United States, and walk-in vaccination is available at many locations.

What to Bring to Your Third Dose Appointment

Individuals should bring their CDC Vaccination Card or other documentation of the vaccine doses they have received—including the digital record via the Docket app. If individuals don't have their vaccine card or their digital COVID-19 record via the Docket app, the vaccine provider should look up the individual's vaccine record on the state's vaccine registry.

People who want a third dose should identify themselves as immunocompromised. Proof of immunocompromised status is not required. A prescription is not required.

Assistance

The State's toll-free vaccination hotline (1-855-568-0545) is available from 8 am to 8 pm, seven days a week to register individuals in the NJ Vaccine Scheduling System, answer questions about the vaccine, provide contact information for sites, and check registration status.