

COVID-19: Booster Dose vs. Third Dose

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a difference in dosage between the Booster Dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and the Third Dose of the vaccine?

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), "At this time, the additional shot of the vaccine is the same in both cases, identical to the doses given as first and second shots".

The difference between the two shots is their eligibility requirements.

If the dosage is the same, why do the Booster Dose and Third Dose of the COVID-19 have different names?

Booster Doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are **only** available for those who received the **Pfizer** vaccine. A Booster dose has not yet been approved for those who received the Moderna or the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Examples of populations eligible for the Pfizer Booster Dose:

- Those ages 65+,
- Those who live in long-term care settings,
- Those with underlying health conditions such as: diabetes (Type 1 or 2), chronic kidney disease or chronic lung disease (including COPD),
- Those who work in occupations that have a high risk of exposure such as correctional workers, educators, grocery store workers, public transit workers, and more.¹

Those who received the **Pfizer** or **Moderna** COVID-19 vaccine and are **immunocompromised** are eligible to receive a Third Dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Examples of populations eligible to receive a third dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna Vaccine:

- Those in active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood,
- Those who have received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system,
- Those who received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system,
- Those with advanced or untreated HIV infection,
- Those in active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response.¹

Are there any other eligibility requirements?

At least 6 months must have passed since your second dose of the **Pfizer** vaccine.¹

At least 28 days must have passed since your second dose of either the **Pfizer or Moderna** COVID-19 vaccine.¹

If you are unsure about whether you would benefit from the Booster Dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine or the Third Dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine, please consult your healthcare provider.