

## **COVID-19 Vaccines: Third Doses for People Who Are Immunocompromised**

People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised (meaning they have a weakened immune system) should get three doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines rather than the standard two doses. People who were vaccinated outside of the U.S. or participated in vaccine clinical trials may also be eligible for an additional dose.

### **Who is eligible for a third dose?**

People age 5 and older who have a condition or are taking medications or treatments that moderately or severely weakens their immune system and got either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine are eligible for a third dose.

Examples of conditions and treatments include:

- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency
- Advanced or untreated HIV
- Getting active treatment for cancer
- Getting active treatment with a high dose of corticosteroids or other drugs that moderately or severely weaken the immune system
- Have received an organ transplant and are taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Have received a stem cell transplant within the past two years

Third doses are recommended for people who have conditions that weaken their immune system but **not** most people with medical conditions such as diabetes or heart or lung disease.

### **Why is a third dose recommended?**

The recommendation is based on studies that show some people who are immunocompromised do not build the same amount of immunity (protection) after getting vaccinated as people who are not immunocompromised. A third dose may improve the immune response.

### **How do I know if I need a third dose?**

Discuss getting a third dose with your health care provider. They will consider your medical conditions and treatment, risk of COVID-19 infection, and other factors. At this time, antibody tests are not recommended for determining whether you have immunity against COVID-19.

### **When should I get my third dose?**

You should get your third dose at least 28 days after your second dose.

### **Does the third dose need to be of the same vaccine brand as the first two doses?**

Your third dose should be of the same vaccine brand (Pfizer or Moderna) as your first two doses, if possible. If you cannot get the same vaccine brand, you can get the other brand.

### **I am immunocompromised and got a third vaccine dose. Can I get a booster shot?**

People age 12 and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and who received a third dose should get a booster shot at least five months after their third dose. For more information, visit [on.nyc.gov/boosterfaq](https://on.nyc.gov/boosterfaq).

### **What about people who got the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine?**

People who got the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should get a booster shot at least two months after their first Johnson & Johnson dose. For more information, visit [on.nyc.gov/boosterfaq](https://on.nyc.gov/boosterfaq).

### **I received a COVID-19 vaccine outside of the U.S. or as part of a clinical trial. Can I get a third dose?**

You should get an additional dose of the **Pfizer vaccine** at least 28 days after your second dose if you are age 12 or older, moderately or severely immunocompromised, and:

- Received all primary doses of a vaccine authorized for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO) but not authorized or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Received all primary doses of any combination of FDA-approved, FDA-authorized, or WHO-authorized COVID-19 vaccines
- Received all primary doses of a vaccine authorized for emergency use by the WHO, but not authorized or approved by the FDA, as part of a clinical trial
- Received all primary doses as part of the Moderna vaccine in children clinical trials

People who were vaccinated as part of clinical trials must have received an active vaccine, not a placebo. Speak with your provider if you have questions.

### **Where can I get a third dose?**

You can get a third dose anywhere that offers the brand of vaccine you need. You do not need to go to the same place where you got your first two doses. To find a vaccination site, visit [nyc.gov/vaccinefinder](https://nyc.gov/vaccinefinder) and choose “Pfizer” or “Moderna” from the “Any vaccine” drop-down. You can also call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692) for help finding a City-run vaccination site. To schedule a free in-home vaccination, visit [nyc.gov/homevaccine](https://nyc.gov/homevaccine) or call 877-829-4692.

### **Is a third dose free?**

Yes. If you have insurance, it may be billed, but you will not be charged an administration fee or other fee.

### **What documentation do I need to get a third dose?**

You will need to show a document with your date of birth, such as a driver’s license, nondriver ID, IDNYC, birth certificate or passport, and attest that you have a medical condition that allows you to get a third dose. Bring your vaccination card if you have it.

**The NYC Health Department may change recommendations as the situation evolves.**

1.13.22