

COVID-19 Vaccine Third Doses vs. Boosters

	Third Dose	Booster Shot
What is it?	An additional dose of vaccine for people who did not have a strong enough response to the first two COVID-19 vaccine doses	An additional dose of a vaccine for people who built protection from COVID-19 vaccination, but whose protection may have decreased over time
Who is eligible?	People age 12 and older who received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine and are moderately to severely immunocompromised	People age 18 and older who received the Pfizer vaccine and are at increased risk of either of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe COVID-19 illness due to their age (65 years or older) or underlying medical condition • COVID-19 exposure because of where they live or work
Why get it?	Studies show some people who are immunocompromised do not respond as well to the vaccines as compared to people who are not immunocompromised. A third dose may improve the immune response.	Some studies show that, while the vaccine works very well against severe illness, protection against infection may start to decrease after about six months. A booster shot may provide extra protection.
What vaccine?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pfizer if your first two doses were Pfizer • Moderna if your first two doses were Moderna 	Pfizer if your first two doses were Pfizer
When am I eligible?	At least 28 days after your second dose	At least 6 months after your second dose
What documentation do I need?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of age • Attest you have a qualifying medical condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of age • If under age 65, attest you have a qualifying medical condition or are at increased risk of exposure
Are there side effects?	As with the first two doses, you may experience side effects such as arm soreness, headache, body aches, tiredness and fever.	As with the first two doses, you may experience side effects such as arm soreness, headache, body aches, tiredness and fever.
Can I get it at the same time as other vaccines?	Yes, you can get a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines, or at any time before or after.	Yes, you can get a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines, or at any time before or after.
Is it free?	Yes	Yes
Where can I learn more?	Go to nyc.gov/covidvaccine and look for Third Dose for People Who are Immunocompromised . Talk to your health care provider if you have questions.	Go to nyc.gov/covidvaccine and look for Recommendation for Pfizer COVID-19 Booster Shots . Talk to your health care provider if you have questions.

To find a vaccination site, go to nyc.gov/vaccinefinder or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692).