



# COVID-19 Vaccines, 2023-2024

## About COVID-19

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. It can be very contagious and spread quickly. Infection can cause respiratory symptoms, similar to a cold or the flu, but can also affect other body systems and cause long-term effects.

COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting people from becoming seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying. As with other vaccine preventable diseases, you are best protected when you stay up to date with recommended vaccinations.

The virus that causes COVID-19 continues to change, and protection declines over time. Getting an updated vaccine can enhance and restore protection against the variant strains. The XBB.1.5 strain was selected for the 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine to provide protection against currently circulating variants.

Pfizer and Moderna are both mRNA vaccines, and can be given to children as young as 6 months of age. Novavax is a protein-based vaccine, and can be given to individuals aged 12 and older.

To date, hundreds of millions of people have safely received a COVID-19 vaccine under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history.

For more information and the latest updates, please visit [www.cdc.gov/covid](https://www.cdc.gov/covid)

## Important details

CDC recommends all individuals ages 5 and older receive one dose of 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine at least 2 months after their last dose to be considered up to date

Adults ages 65 and older should receive an **additional** 2023-2024 formula vaccine, at least 4 months after their last dose.

### Guidance for children

- Unvaccinated children 6 months- 4 years should get 2 doses of Moderna or 3 doses of Pfizer
- Vaccinated children should receive 1-2 doses of updated Moderna or Pfizer, depending on number of prior doses

Immunocompromised persons should receive a total of 3 doses of Moderna or Pfizer OR 2 doses of Novavax

- Additional doses may be given at provider's discretion

