



COVID-19 vaccines

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 work well to protect 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. COVID-19 vaccines are updated 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 ages 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

Important details

COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for everyone ages 6 months and older in the U.S. for the prevention of COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccination is especially important for people at highest risk of severe COVID-19, including people ages 65 years and older, peoples with underlying medical conditions, people living in long-term care facilities, and pregnant people.

Vaccination schedule summary

- Unvaccinated children 6 months—4 years should get 2 doses of Moderna or 3 doses of Pfizer
- Children 5—11 years should receive 1—2 doses of updated Moderna or Pfizer, depending on number of prior doses
- Persons 12 years and older should receive 1—2 doses of Moderna, Pfizer, or Novavax depending on number of prior doses



Recommendations for people who are not moderately or severely immunocompromised

Initial vaccination

- Ages 6 months—4 years
 - 2 doses of Moderna OR 3 doses of Pfizer
- Ages 5—11 years
 - 1 dose of Moderna OR 1 dose of Pfizer
- Ages 12 years & older
 - 1 dose of Moderna OR 1 dose of Pfizer OR 1 dose of Novavax

Received previous doses of a COVID-19 vaccine

- Ages 6 months—4 years
 - 1 or 2 doses of mRNA vaccine from same manufacturer, depending on vaccine and number of prior doses
- Ages 5—11 years
 - 1 dose of Moderna OR 1 dose of Pfizer
- Ages 12 years and older
 - 1 dose of Moderna OR 1 dose of Pfizer OR 1 dose of Novavax

Recommendations for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised

Initial vaccination

- Ages 6 months—11 years
 - 3 doses of Moderna OR 3 doses of Pfizer
- Ages 12 years & older
 - 3 doses of Moderna OR 3 doses of Pfizer OR 2 doses of Novavax

Received previous doses of a COVID-19 vaccine

- Recommended COVID-19 vaccine and number of updated doses are based on age and vaccination history.

Additional doses

- People ages 6 months and older may get 1 or more age-appropriate additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

For more information, please see ***CDC Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in the U.S.***