

Should you get a booster shot?

The FDA and CDC have authorized booster shots of the Pfizer vaccine for people at high risk of severe illness or exposure.

It's important to know:

- COVID-19 vaccines are doing an excellent job of preventing severe illness or death from COVID-19, even with the highly contagious delta variant.
- The CDC still considers you fully vaccinated if it's been at least 2 weeks since you had:
 - 2 doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.
 - 1 dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
- COVID-19 is spreading mostly among unvaccinated people, not people who haven't had boosters.



The **CDC says** you **should** get a booster if:

- You got 2 doses of the Pfizer vaccine **and**
- Your second dose was at least 6 months ago **and you are one of the following:**
 - 65 or older.
 - A resident of a nursing home or other long-term care setting.
 - Age 50–64 **and** have a medical condition that puts you at **high risk** of severe illness from COVID-19.



The CDC says you **may** get a booster if:*

- You got 2 doses of the Pfizer vaccine **and**
- Your second dose was at least 6 months ago **and you are one of the following:**
 - Age 18–49 and have a medical condition that puts you at **high risk** of severe illness from COVID-19.
 - Age 18–64 and have **a job** that puts you at high risk of exposure to COVID-19.



You **should not** get a booster if:

- You have a weakened immune system and have already had an additional dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. You should **not** have more than 3 doses of COVID-19 vaccine at this time.
- You had the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Booster shots are authorized only for those who had Pfizer.
- You are younger than 18. Though the Pfizer vaccine is authorized for ages 12 and older, booster shots are authorized only for ages 18 and older.

* The CDC says you should weigh the benefits of an mRNA vaccine booster against the tiny risk of [myocarditis or pericarditis](#). These heart conditions are a rare complication of mRNA vaccines (such as Pfizer and Moderna), mostly among young men.