



COVID-19 Vaccines - Frequently Asked Questions FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE IMMUNOCOMPROMISED



Why do people with weak immune systems have different vaccine recommendations?

People with [moderately or severely weakened immune systems](#) (e.g., blood-related cancers or certain treatments for cancer, organ transplants, and certain autoimmune conditions) are especially vulnerable to COVID-19. They are more likely to get COVID-19 than people with normal immune systems. And if they get infected, they are more likely to get very ill and also to spread the virus to others.

Some people with weak immune systems don't respond as well to the COVID-19 vaccines as people with normal immune systems. They need to have more doses of vaccine to get the best protection.

How many vaccine doses should I get?

It depends on your age and your COVID-19 vaccine primary series.

Primary series

- A Pfizer or Moderna primary series is 3 doses
- A Novavax primary series is 2 doses
- A J&J primary series is 1 dose of the J&J vaccine plus a dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine

Booster doses

It is recommended that everyone ages 6 months and older gets one updated (bivalent) booster* dose, regardless of how many booster doses they had in the past. The exception is that children 6 months though 4 years of age who finished a Pfizer vaccine primary series are not eligible for any booster dose at this time. See [Booster Doses](#) for more information.

*People age 18 and older can choose to get a Novavax (monovalent) vaccine instead of an mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) bivalent booster if they are unable or unwilling to receive an mRNA booster AND they have never had a COVID-19 booster before.

Visit the interactive *Find Out When to Get a Booster* tool on the CDC [Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines Including Boosters](#) webpage to find out when you (or your child) are due for vaccines.

Ask your doctor about the best timing of your vaccine doses based on your current treatment plan. This is especially important if you are about to start or restart immunosuppressive treatment.

See the DPH [COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule](#) at ph.lacounty.gov/covidvaccineschedules for information on all recommended primary and booster doses for people who are immunocompromised.

What other steps should I take to protect myself?

It is important to take other steps to protect yourself from COVID-19 in addition to getting the COVID-19 vaccine:

- **Wear a protective mask** such as a well-fitting respirator (e.g., N95, KN95, KF94) or a [double mask](#) for a higher level of protection. Avoid crowded indoor places or spaces with poor airflow when possible. For details, see ph.lacounty.gov/reducerisk and ph.lacounty.gov/masks.
- **Encourage the people that you spend time with to help protect you.** They should stay [up to date](#) with their COVID-19 vaccines including getting their updated booster, and take other steps to [reduce their risk](#) of getting and passing COVID-19 to you.





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If you start to feel sick, act quickly to take a COVID-19 test and get free COVID-19 treatment. If you do get COVID-19, there are medicines you can take to help lower your risk of getting very sick. Ask your doctor for treatment right away, even if your symptoms are mild. The medicines work best when they are given soon after symptoms start, so don't delay. See ph.lacounty.gov/covidmedicines for more information including how to access free COVID-19 medication.

Where can I get more information?



- To print or view this FAQ or FAQs on other COVID-19 vaccine topics, scan the QR code or visit [COVID-19 vaccine FAQs](#).
- [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://vaccinatelacounty.com) – including [COVID-19 Vaccine Schedules](#) with graphics to show when each dose is due and information on [How to Get Vaccinated](#).
- See the CDC webpage [COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised People](#) to learn more.
- Talk to your doctor if you have questions.

