

SARS-COV-2 VACCINATION RECOMMENDATIONS

As of January 2022, there were three COVID-19 vaccines authorized or approved for use in the United States. The vaccines are safe, effective, and reduce risk of severe illness from COVID-19. It must be noted that the guidance for vaccination continues to evolve rapidly. Individuals must consult with their health care providers to learn the most up to date recommendations.

Between December 2020 and November 2021, an estimated 1.1 million additional COVID-19-attributable deaths were averted in the United States because of vaccination.

It is important to note that, while the vaccines are highly effective in preventing infection and severe disease, vaccinations cannot mitigate COVID-19 once an individual is ill with the disease.



BNT162b2 or Comirnaty (Pfizer-BioNTech)*

Age – CDC recommends vaccination for individuals age 5 and older.

Regimen – Primary series: Two doses are recommended, administered three weeks apart; individuals who are moderately or severely immunocompromised (such as patients on active cancer treatment) should get an additional dose 28 days after the second shot.

Booster dose^{†‡} – Recommended for all adults age 12 years and older at least five months after their second dose.

mRNA-1273 (Moderna)*

Age – CDC recommends vaccination for individuals age 18 and older.

Regimen – Primary series: Two doses are recommended, administered four weeks apart; individuals who are moderately or severely immunocompromised (such as patients on active cancer treatment) should get an additional dose 28 days after the second shot.

Booster dose[†] – Recommended for all adults age 18 years and older at least five months after their second dose.

JNJ-78436735 (Janssen)*

Age – CDC recommends vaccination for individuals age 18 and older.

Regimen – Primary series: One dose.

Booster dose[†] – Recommended for all adults age 18 years and older at least 2 months after first dose.

*CDC has a clinical preference for the mRNA-based vaccines BNT162b2 (Pfizer/BioNTech) and mRNA-1273 (Moderna), over the viral-vector-based vaccine JNJ-78436735 (Janssen). A person is considered fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 infection ≥2 weeks after receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) or ≥2 weeks after receipt of a single dose of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. CDC has detailed information on the possible side effects, vaccine ingredients, and safety profiles for all vaccines. Individuals with a known history of allergic reactions to a COVID-19 vaccine ingredient should not get that vaccine. They may still be able to get one of the other two vaccines. If unsure, individuals should discuss with their health care providers regarding their specific health situations to decide which vaccine is right for them.

[†]According to CDC's recommendations, everyone age 18 and older should get a booster dose of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine.

[‡]Teens 12-17 years old should get a Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine booster.