

Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)
Alabama Emergency Response Technology (ALERT)
Health Alert Network (HAN)
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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Expands Eligibility for COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots

On Thursday, October 21, the CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., endorsed the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation for a booster shot of COVID-19 vaccines in certain populations. This follows the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) decision on October 20 to amend the emergency use authorizations (EUA) for COVID-19 vaccines to allow for the use of a single booster dose. There are now booster recommendations for all three available COVID-19 vaccines in the United States and CDC's recommendations now allow for mix and match dosing for booster shots.

For individuals who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at 6 months or more after their initial series:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in [long-term care settings](#)
- Age 18+ who have [underlying medical conditions](#)
- Age 18+ who work or live in [high-risk settings](#)

For individuals who received the Janssen/J & J COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are also recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated two or more months ago. The vaccine given as the booster can be either the Pfizer, Moderna, or J & J COVID-19 vaccine.

Guidance was provided by the FDA on the use of each of the available COVID-19 vaccines as a heterologous (or "mix and match") booster dose in eligible individuals, as defined above, following completion of primary vaccination with a different available COVID-19 vaccine. When using the Moderna product for boosters, please give half the dose used for the primary series.

In addition, co-administration of any of the COVID-19 vaccines can occur with the influenza vaccine. They must be given at different injection sites. When deciding whether to coadminister other vaccines with a COVID-19 vaccine, consider the following:

- Whether the patient is behind or at risk of becoming behind on recommended vaccines,
- The patient's risk of vaccine-preventable disease (e.g., during an outbreak or occupational exposures), and
- The reactogenicity profile of the vaccines

Learn more about [coadministration with other vaccines](#).

FDA News Release, October 20, 2021

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-takes-additional-actions-use-booster-dose-covid-19-vaccines>

Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccines Updated on October 20, 2021

<https://www.fda.gov/media/144637/download>