

Booster Dose vs. Additional Dose

What's the Difference?

Vaccines are the best protection against severe illness, hospitalization, and death due to COVID-19. Booster doses and additional doses are important and it's helpful to know the difference.

Booster Dose

Additional Dose

Why is it important?

Given when the immune response to initial vaccination might have decreased over time

Given to those with weakened immune systems who have not responded fully to initial doses

Who is eligible?

All people **ages 12 and older**



Individuals 5+ who completed a two-dose vaccine series AND are **moderately or severely immune compromised**

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is not approved as an additional dose

Conditions and treatments include:

- Active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Solid organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids

When can it be given?

5 months after the **Pfizer** or **Moderna** primary series

2 months after **Johnson & Johnson**

People ages 18+ may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster. Only Pfizer is approved for those ages 12-17.

28 days after the two-dose series of Pfizer for people ages 5-17 and either Pfizer or Moderna for people ages 18 and older

Talk to your doctor to see if getting an additional dose is right you