

SECOND COVID-19 BOOSTER DOSE FAQS FOR LONG-TERM CARE SETTINGS

Updated 5/23/22 to reflect CDC's strengthened recommendations for second boosters.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Who should receive a second booster?

- People 50+ years old
- People 12+ years old who are [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#) (e.g., organ transplant, on chemotherapy, or other conditions)
- People 18-49 years old who got two doses of J&J vaccine may choose to receive a second booster.
- There is no current guidance on a second booster for healthcare workers or long-term care facility (LTCF) residents who don't meet the age or clinical criteria listed above.

2. When should they get a second booster?

- At least 4 months after their first booster.

3. What if they recently caught COVID-19?

- People can get a booster after infection as soon as they feel better, are fever-free and no longer need to isolate. However, people who had COVID-19 within the last 3 months may consider waiting to get their second booster.

4. Which vaccine may they get for a second booster?

- People 18+ years old may get Pfizer or Moderna mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.
- People 12-17 years old may only receive the Pfizer vaccine.

5. Who might benefit most from getting a second booster now?

- People who are [immunocompromised](#)
- People with [medical conditions](#) that increase their risk of getting very sick from COVID-19 (e.g., people with heart, lung, or kidney disease; diabetes; or dementia).
- People who live with someone who is immunocompromised, at higher risk for severe disease, or can't be vaccinated due to age or other reasons.
- People who are at higher risk of exposure to COVID-19 (e.g., live or work in a LTCF or in a community where the COVID-19 level is high).

BENEFITS AND RISKS

6. What are the benefits of a second booster?

- Protection from the first booster may decrease over time. A second booster dose will safely help restore and enhance protection against COVID-19 severe disease, hospitalization, and death.
- LTCF residents and staff who are 50+ years or immunocompromised are at high risk of getting very sick from COVID-19 and may especially benefit from a second booster.
- The initial series of doses and first booster provide strong protection against COVID-19 and should be offered to those who have not yet received these doses.

7. What are the risks of a second booster?

- COVID-19 vaccines are safe. Over 600,000 people 60+ years in Israel received a second booster dose of the Pfizer vaccine, with no new safety concerns.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

8. Are second boosters required?

- There is no current CDPH requirement for a second booster for LTCF residents or staff.
- CDC has updated the definition of up to date to include a second booster for people who are 50+ and people 12+ who are immunocompromised

9. How should LTCFs utilize second booster doses?

- Many California LTCF residents received their first booster at the end of 2021 and are now eligible for a second booster.
- LTCFs **should offer** second boosters to eligible residents and staff now. CDC strengthened its recommendations on 5/19/22.
- LTCFs should inform eligible residents and staff about the new recommendations and how to access a second booster ([MyTurn](#), [Vaccines.gov](#)).
- For additional details on COVID vaccine access, refer to the [LTCF COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit](#).

RESOURCES

- [CDC Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [CDC Strengthens Recommendations and Expands Eligibility for COVID-19 Booster Shots](#)
- [CDPH Second Booster Resources](#)