

# UPDATED COVID-19 VACCINE FAQs FOR LONG-TERM CARE SETTINGS

*Reflects CDC's updated COVID-19 vaccine recommendations.*

## ELIGIBILITY

### 1. Who is eligible to receive updated COVID-19 vaccines?

- Updated COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for everyone 6 months and older.
- Adults 65 years and older are recommended to receive two doses of updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine separated by 6 months (minimum interval 2 months).
- Individuals 6 months and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised are also recommended to receive two doses of updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine separated by 6 months (minimum interval 2 months) and may receive additional doses in discussion with their healthcare provider.

Timing and other details are available at [bit.ly/timingguide](https://bit.ly/timingguide).

### 2. Which COVID-19 vaccines are available?

- Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines are authorized for use in children 6 months-11 years.
- Spikevax (by Moderna) and Comirnaty (by Pfizer-BioNTech) are licensed for use in people 12 years of age and older.
- Novavax is authorized for use in people 12 years of age and older.

### 3. What if someone recently had a COVID-19 infection?

- People who recently had SARS-CoV-2 infection may consider delaying a COVID-19 vaccine dose by 3 months from symptom onset or positive test (if infection was asymptomatic). Individual factors such as [risk of severe COVID-19](#) and current indicators of community transmission should be taken into account when determining whether to delay getting a COVID-19 vaccination after infection. For more information, refer to [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

#### 4. Can COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines be administered at the same time?

- Yes, individuals may receive routine administration of all age-appropriate doses of vaccines simultaneously for whom no specific contraindications exist at the time of the healthcare visit.
- Flu vaccine is recommended annually during September or October.
- RSV vaccine is recommended for everyone 75 years of age and older and those 60-74 years of age who are at [increased risk of severe RSV disease](#), including those living in nursing homes or other long-term care facilities.

## BENEFITS AND RISKS

#### 5. Who might benefit most from getting an updated vaccine?

- The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months and older stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccine. Those who are at highest risk of severe consequences of COVID-19 and should prioritize getting vaccinated include:
  - [Older adults](#) 65+
  - [Residents in long-term care facilities](#)
  - People who are pregnant
  - People who are [immunocompromised](#)
  - People with certain [medical conditions](#) that increase risk of getting very sick from COVID-19 (e.g., people with heart, lung, or kidney disease; diabetes; or dementia).
  - People with [disabilities](#)
  - 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 have not yet received an updated dose should get it now. (See additional information above for persons who have recently had a COVID-19 infection).
- Immunocompromised people who are unlikely to mount an adequate immune response to COVID-19 vaccination may be eligible for a monoclonal antibody product for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) called [pemivibart](#) (Pemgarda™). However, it is important to remember that PrEP with Pemgarda™ is **not** a substitute for vaccination. Immunocompromised individuals who may derive benefit from COVID-19 vaccination should receive a COVID-19 vaccine. In individuals who have recently received a COVID-19 vaccine, Pemgarda™ should be administered at least 2 weeks after vaccination.

## 6. What are the benefits of an updated vaccine?

- The updated vaccine protects against more recent strains of the virus which causes COVID-19.
- Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine is a safer and more dependable way to build immunity to COVID-19.
- The vaccine reduces the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. Studies have shown that the vaccine can reduce the risk of long COVID and reduces the severity of symptoms if a COVID-19 infection does occur.
- The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months and older [stay up to date](#) on COVID-19 vaccine.
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## 7. What are the risks of an updated vaccine?

- The most common side effects of COVID-19 vaccines include redness and swelling at the injection site, fatigue, and fever.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### 8. How should LTCFs promote updated COVID-19 vaccines?

- LTCFs [should offer](#) updated vaccines to eligible residents and staff.
- LTCFs should inform eligible residents and staff about current recommendations and how to access updated vaccine doses ([MyTurn](#) and [Vaccines.gov](#)).

## RESOURCES

- [LTCF COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Resources for Long-Term Care Facilities Resources](#)
- [CDC Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#)