



## ***Frequently Asked Questions about the COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot***

Updated: 11/5/2021

### **Am I eligible for the COVID-19 booster shot?**

Covid-19 vaccine [booster shoots are available for the following](#) Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine recipients who completed their initial series *at least 6 months ago* and are:

- 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

A single booster dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine may be administered *at least 6 months after completing the primary series* to individuals who are:

- 65 years of age and older
- 18 through 64 years of age at high risk of severe COVID-19
- 18 through 64 years of age with frequent institutional or occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2

A single booster dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine may be administered at least 2 months after completing the single-dose primary regimen to individuals who are:

- 18 years of age and older

### **Where can I get a booster shot in Pima County?**

Booster shots of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine are available for eligible persons at the following locations:

- Pima County Health Department clinics
- Abrams Public Health Center
- Mobile PODS listed in the website [here](#), excluding Pima Community College.
- Most pharmacies also have booster shots available.

Check on locations and vaccine type available on the Arizona Department of Health Services webpage [here](#).

### **What are the side effects of getting the booster shot?**

The side effects of receiving the booster shot have been reported to be similar to that of the initial two doses and include fatigue, headache, muscle aches, chills, joint pain, fever, and [serious side effects](#) are rare but may occur.

### **I already received a two-dose vaccine, why should I get a booster shot?**

The purpose of a booster shoot is to boost the protection of a vaccinated person who may have lost protection over time. When protective antibodies are lost over time, it is called [waning immunity](#). This means less protection against variants of COVID-19 such as the Delta variant.



### **What is the difference between an additional vaccine dose and a booster shot ?**

An additional dose of a vaccine is given to people who may have not developed the expected protection from a vaccine such as people with compromised immune systems. An additional dose of an mRNA-COVID-19 vaccine may help some people improve the response to their initial vaccine doses.

A booster shot is given to vaccinated people with protection against COVID-19 that have lost some of that protection over time.

### **Would the booster shot have to be from the same vaccine brand as the two-dose vaccine I received?**

The [FDA has authorized three vaccine boosters](#) (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Janssen/Johnson & Johnson) and determined that it is safe for individuals to receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster or additional dose that is a different brand than the initial dose or doses.

### **Do I need a booster shot if I had COVID-19?**

The CDC recommends that eligible individuals receive a booster shot even if they had COVID-19. Getting vaccinated and receiving a booster shot even if you have had COVID-19 will increase your protection from getting COVID-19 again after recovering.

### **Do I need to take my COVID-19 vaccination card when I go get my booster shot?**

It is helpful to have your COVID-19 vaccine card but it is not necessary. You will be asked to self-attest that you meet eligibility requirements such as your age, health conditions or occupation.

### **Am I still considered “fully vaccinated” if I don’t get a booster shot?**

Yes, [people who got a two-dose vaccine](#) or the single-dose Johnson & Johnson shot are considered fully vaccinated — even without a booster.

### **Can I get a flu vaccination at the same time as my COVID-19 booster?**

According to the CDC, yes, you can get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccinations like a flu or shingles vaccine at the same time or close together.

### **Do I still have to wear a mask when I get my booster shot?**

The CDC recommends that you wear a mask indoors when in close contact with others. They also recommend that individuals continue to wear a mask if they have a condition or if they are taking medications that weaken their immune system. In general, you do not need to wear a mask in outdoor settings when fully vaccinated.