

COVID-19 Vaccine Third Doses vs. Boosters

	Pfizer and Moderna Third Dose	Booster Shot for Pfizer and Moderna Vaccine Recipients	Booster Shot for Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Recipients
What is it?	An additional dose for people who did not have a strong enough response to the first two vaccine doses	An additional dose for people who built protection from the vaccine, but whose protection may have decreased over time	An additional dose to increase the level of protection provided by the vaccine
Who is eligible?	People age 12 and older who received two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine and are moderately to severely immunocompromised	People age 18 and older who received two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine and are at increased risk of either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe COVID-19 illness due to their age (65 years or older) or underlying medical condition COVID-19 exposure because of where they live or work 	People age 18 and older who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine
Why get it?	Studies show some people who are immunocompromised do not respond as well to the vaccines. A third dose may improve the immune response.	Studies show that, while the vaccines protect very well against severe illness, protection against infection may start to decrease after about six months. A booster shot may provide extra protection.	Studies show that people who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine have less protection against severe illness than people who received the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine. Getting a booster shot boosts the immunity you have already built up from your initial dose.
What vaccine brand?	The same brand as your first two doses, if possible (Pfizer or Moderna)	You can get a Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson booster shot.	You can get Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson booster shot.
When am I eligible?	At least 28 days after your second dose	At least 6 months after your second dose	At least 2 months after your first dose
What documentation do I need?	Proof of age and attest you have a qualifying medical condition	Proof of age and, if under age 65, attest you have a qualifying medical condition or are at increased risk of exposure	Proof of age
Are there side effects?	You may experience side effects such as arm soreness, headache, body aches, tiredness and fever.	You may experience side effects such as arm soreness, headache, body aches, tiredness and fever.	You may experience side effects such as arm soreness, headache, body aches, tiredness and fever.
Is it free?	Yes	Yes	Yes

To find a vaccination site, go to nyc.gov/vaccinefinder or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692).
For more information, visit nyc.gov/covidvaccine.

The NYC Health Department may change recommendations as the situation evolves. **10.22.21**