



Patient Education

Third Dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine

INFORMATION YOU NEED NOW

Health care providers recommend certain people receive a third dose of the vaccine for COVID-19. You may hear this third dose called a booster vaccine.

The third dose is recommended for people who have medical conditions that make them immunocompromised. People who are immunocompromised have weak immune systems. People who have weak immune systems are more likely to get infections and are likely to get very sick from those infections.

THE THIRD DOSE IS RECOMMENDED FOR PEOPLE WHO:

- Are receiving certain types of cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood.
- Are receiving treatment with corticosteroids or other medications that may suppress the immune system.
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medication to suppress the immune system.
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last two years.
- Have a moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency disorder, such as DiGeorge syndrome or Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome.
- Have advanced or untreated HIV infection.

Health care providers currently do not recommend a third dose for anyone other than people who are immunocompromised. Health care providers do not currently recommend a second dose for those who received the one-dose vaccine, commonly referred to as the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

THE THIRD DOSE WILL BE GIVEN TO IMMUNOCOMPROMISED PEOPLE WHO ARE:

- 12 years and older if they receive the Pfizer vaccine.
- 18 years and older if they receive the Moderna vaccine.

The third dose can be given starting four weeks after receiving the second dose of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

If you are unsure whether you should receive a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, contact your health care provider.



WHY DO YOU NEED A THIRD DOSE OF THE VACCINE?

If you are immunocompromised, your body may not have responded as well as needed to protect you from COVID-19 after you received the first two doses. The third dose of the vaccine may provide better protection against COVID-19. People who have weak immune systems often need more than one vaccination for various illnesses.

HOW DO YOU GET THE THIRD DOSE OF THE VACCINE?

Mayo Clinic may contact you if you qualify for the third dose of the vaccine. Or you may contact your Mayo Clinic health care provider to schedule the third dose.

WHICH VACCINE SHOULD YOU GET?

- If you had the Pfizer vaccine, health care providers recommend you receive the Pfizer vaccine for your third dose.
- If you had the Moderna vaccine, health care providers recommend you receive the Moderna vaccine for your third dose.

However, you may be given a different brand vaccine than the one you first received depending on vaccine availability.

CAN PEOPLE WHO ARE IN THE HOSPITAL GET THE THIRD DOSE OF THE VACCINE?

It is possible. It depends on the status of the person's health.

WHAT SYMPTOMS CAN SOMEONE EXPECT AFTER A THIRD DOSE?

Studies show people have symptoms similar to the ones they had after the first two doses. These symptoms are usually mild and only last a day or so.

DO YOU NEED TO SHOW PROOF THAT YOU RECEIVED THE FIRST TWO DOSES?

Before you can get the third dose, your health care team needs proof you received the first two doses. You can show your vaccination card as proof or your health care provider needs to find documentation in your medical records.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, talk with your health care provider.

DO NOT DELAY. TO PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST COVID-19, CONSIDER GETTING THE THIRD DOSE AS SOON AS YOU ARE ELIGIBLE.

BARBARA WOODWARD LIPS PATIENT EDUCATION CENTER

Mrs. Lips, a resident of San Antonio, Texas, was a loyal Mayo Clinic patient of more than 40 years and a self-made business leader who significantly expanded her family's activities in oil, gas and ranching. Upon her death in 1995, Mrs. Lips paid the ultimate compliment by leaving her entire estate to Mayo Clinic. By naming the Barbara Woodward Lips Patient Education Center, Mayo honors her generosity, her love of learning, her belief in patient empowerment and her dedication to high-quality care.

This material is for your education and information only. This content does not replace medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. New medical research may change this information. If you have questions about a medical condition, always talk with your health care provider.

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