

COVID-19 Vaccine Update: Additional Dose for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People

CDC now recommends that people whose immune systems are compromised (moderately to severely) should receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, after the initial 2 doses (at least 28 days after second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine).

What You Need to Know

- People who are moderately to severely immunocompromised are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 because they are more at risk of serious, prolonged illness.
- People who have compromised immune systems may benefit from an additional dose to make sure they have enough protection against COVID-19.
- CDC recommends people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised should receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine after the initial 2 doses.

Who Needs an Additional COVID-19 Vaccine?

CDC is recommending that moderately to severely immunocompromised people receive an additional dose. This includes people who have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response

CDC does **not** recommend additional doses or booster shots for any other population at this time. At this time, CDC is not recommending additional dose



for people who have received the Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

Data on Decreased Immune Response Among Immunocompromised People

People who are moderately to severely immunocompromised make up about 3% of the adult population and are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 because they are more at risk of serious, prolonged illness.

Studies indicate some immunocompromised people don't always build the same level of immunity after vaccination the way non-immunocompromised people do, and may benefit from an additional dose to ensure adequate protection against COVID-19. In small studies, fully vaccinated immunocompromised people have accounted for a large proportion of hospitalized "[breakthrough cases](#)," and that suggests immunocompromised people are more likely to transmit the virus to household contacts.

Where can I get the vaccine?

Patients who live and/or work in Marion or Polk Counties will be able to schedule your additional vaccine dose soon. Given the newness of the guidelines, vaccination clinics/ sites are updating their procedures to ensure immunocompromised patients are able to safely receive the CDC recommended additional dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

We anticipate within a week or two, you will be able schedule your additional dose.

Log on to <https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/> or <https://salemhealth.org/vaccine> to find scheduling updates and vaccination clinic/ site nearest you.

Reference Links:

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0813-additional-mRNA-mrna-dose.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2021-07/07-COVID-Oliver-508.pdf>