

COVID-19 Booster Shots for New Yorkers 65+

With information changing almost daily, it's understandable to have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine booster shots. This fact sheet lays out evidence-based information about the COVID-19 booster shots for New Yorkers ages 65+.

Why would I need a booster shot?



[Studies](#) show that immunity from COVID-19 starts to decline [6 months](#) after vaccination.

COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective in preventing severe disease and death from COVID-19 in all ages. However, most cases that resulted in [hospitalization](#) or [death](#) among fully vaccinated people without the booster were in people 65+.

The booster shots are an added layer of protection if you are exposed to the virus. People over age 60 who received the mRNA vaccine booster showed [lower rates of COVID-19 infection](#). They also had lower rates of severe infection.

Most vaccines, such as [routine childhood vaccinations](#), are given in a series, and many require boosters.

All New Yorkers over age 65 are [encouraged](#) to get a booster shot in their COVID-19 vaccine series.

How do I know when to get a booster shot?



For Pfizer or Moderna, you are eligible after two doses that were given over 6 months ago.

For Johnson & Johnson, you are eligible after one dose given over 2 months ago.

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The booster shot does not need to be the same vaccine as your prior dose(s). Visit <https://bit.ly/3vaxcomp> for more information about the 3 types of boosters.

If you have any questions, be sure to consult with your healthcare provider.

What is a 3rd dose and how is it different from a booster?

3rd doses, also called “additional doses,” are for people who are [immunocompromised](#) who did not build a strong enough response after vaccination. Boosters are meant for people who had a strong enough response to the first vaccine dose(s), but the protection may have decreased over time. 3rd doses are given earlier than boosters and the details vary based on your initial vaccine. Visit <https://on.ny.gov/3qR4k8K> for more information.

What side effects can I expect from the booster shot?

[Side effects](#) of COVID-19 booster shots are usually mild or moderate, such as pain at the injection site, headaches, and tiredness.

How do I get a booster shot?



You can schedule an appointment or find a walk-in site online or by phone. A booster shot is **free**. You will need to show a [document](#) with your date of birth, such as a driver’s license, IDNYC, or passport.

ONLINE

Go to VaccineFinder.nyc.gov and choose your preferred brand under the “Any vaccine” drop-down menu.

BY PHONE

Call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692) for help finding a vaccination site.

IN-HOME VACCINATIONS

Go to forms.cityofnewyork.us/f/home or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692).

FREE TRANSPORTATION

to and from a vaccine appointment is available for city residents ages 65+. Call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692).

For information about boosters in other languages: [Español](#) | [简体中文](#) | [Other languages](#)