

# Update on COVID Vaccines

The CDC now recommends the 2023–2024 updated COVID-19 vaccines—Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Novavax—to protect against serious illness from COVID-19.

*December 4, 2023*

Everyone aged 5 years and older should receive **1 dose of an updated COVID-19 vaccine** to protect against serious illness from COVID-19. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html#All>)

Children aged 6 months–4 years need multiple doses of COVID-19 vaccines to be up to date, including at least 1 dose of updated COVID-19 vaccine. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html#Children> | <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html#UTD>)

People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised may get additional doses of updated COVID-19 vaccine. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html>)

The CDC will update COVID Vaccine Recommendations as needed.

## Recommendations for Everyone Aged 5 Years and Older

Everyone aged 5 years and older should get **1 dose of an updated COVID-19 vaccine** to protect against serious illness from COVID-19.

None of the updated 2023–2024 COVID-19 vaccines is preferred over another. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html#preferential>)

**Children aged 5–11 years** who are unvaccinated or have previously gotten a COVID-19 vaccine before September 12, 2023, should get 1 updated Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

**People aged 12 years and older** who are unvaccinated should get either:

- 1 updated Pfizer-BioNTech or updated Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, OR
- 2 doses of updated Novavax COVID-19 vaccine.

## Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna mRNA COVID-19 vaccines

mRNA vaccines use mRNA created in a laboratory to teach our cells how to make a protein—or even just a piece of a protein—that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. The mRNA from the vaccines is broken down within a few days after vaccination and discarded from the body.

## Novavax protein subunit COVID-19 vaccine

Protein subunit vaccines contain pieces (proteins) of the virus that causes COVID-19. The virus pieces are the spike protein. The Novavax COVID-19 vaccine contains another ingredient called an adjuvant. It helps the immune system respond to that spike protein. After learning how to respond to the spike protein, the immune system will be able to respond quickly to the actual virus spike protein and protect you against COVID-19.

## About COVID-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States are effective at protecting people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying. As with other vaccine-preventable diseases, you are best protected from COVID-19 when you stay up to date with the recommended vaccinations.

COVID-19 vaccines recommended for use in the United States: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Novavax

# COVID-19 Vaccines: 2023–2024 Updated, Bivalent, and Original

## 2023–2024 Updated COVID-19 Vaccines

As of October 3, 2023, the 2023–2024 updated Novavax vaccine was recommended by CDC for use in the United States.

As of September 12, 2023, the 2023–2024 updated Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines were recommended by CDC for use in the United States.

The 2023–2024 updated COVID-19 vaccines more closely targets the XBB lineage of the Omicron variant and could restore protection against severe COVID-19 that may have decreased over time. We anticipate the updated vaccines will be better at fighting currently circulating variants. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/index.html>)

There is no preferential recommendation for the use of any one COVID-19 vaccine over another when more than one licensed or authorized, recommended, and age-appropriate vaccine is available.

## 2022–2023 Bivalent Vaccines

As of September 11, 2023, the bivalent Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are no longer available for use in the United States.

The 2022–2023 bivalent vaccines were designed to protect against both the original virus that causes COVID-19 and the Omicron variants BA.4 and BA.5. Two COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers, Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, had developed bivalent COVID-19 vaccines.

## Original Vaccines

As of April 18, 2023, the original Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are no longer available for use in the United States.

As of May 6, 2023, J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine is no longer available for use in the United States.

Previous COVID-19 vaccines were called “original” because they were designed to protect against the original virus that causes COVID-19.

## Getting Vaccines If You Recently Had COVID-19

If you recently had COVID-19, you still need to stay up to date with your vaccines, but you may consider delaying your vaccine by 3 months.

Reinfection is less likely in the weeks to months after infection. However, certain factors could be reasons to get a vaccine sooner rather than later, such as:

- personal risk of severe disease,
- risk of disease in a loved one or close contact,
- local COVID-19 hospital admission level, (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>)
- and the most common COVID-19 variant currently causing illness. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/>)

### Reference:

U.S. Center for Disease Control  
& Prevention - Nov 8, 2023