

COVID-19 Variants and Boosters Fact Sheet

COVID-19 Boosters:

Why Do I Need Another Vaccine?



Why do I need to keep getting COVID-19 boosters?

Protection from the first COVID-19 vaccine eventually fades. Boosters help to restore that protection. The COVID-19 virus also changes over time, and the original vaccines and boosters do not protect as well against the new versions, or variants, of the virus. Scientists design boosters that protect against new variants.

How is the latest booster different than the vaccines I already got?





The first COVID-19 vaccines—called the **primary series**—were designed to protect against the original COVID-19 variant. The first booster restored that protection by reminding the body to prepare for COVID-19 infection. The most recently developed (second) booster restores protection and adds protection against the most common COVID-19 variants, BA.4 and BA.5 (Omicron).

What if I already had COVID-19?

Even if you had COVID-19, getting a COVID-19 booster provides added protection against the virus.

When am I considered up-to-date with my vaccines?

Your age determines which vaccines and boosters you need to be considered up-to-date. Here are the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) recommendations:

			
AGES	AGES	AGES	AGES
6 months – 4 years old	5 – 11 years old	12 – 17 years old	> 18 years old
TREATMENT	TREATMENT	TREATMENT	TREATMENT
Primary series only	Primary series + 1st booster	Primary series + 2nd booster (from Pfizer)	Primary series + 2nd booster (from Pfizer or Moderna)

If you have questions about which booster you need and when to get it, take the CDC's [Interactive Booster Quiz](#).

COVID-19 boosters are free and available now.

Schedule your appointment using the [NCRN Support Finder](#) or call 1-877-904-5097 to find vaccination locations near you.