



DOH 348-862

September 2023

COVID-19 Vaccine Timeline

Eligibility & Requirements

The following timeline includes a summary of important milestones for vaccine approval, availability, and requirements. The most current information is listed first. For additional information about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit the [CDC's website](#).

Eligibility

September 12, 2023 – FDA rescinds approval of bivalent COVID-19 mRNA vaccines and approves use of 2023-24 mRNA vaccines

- With the approval of commercialized 2023-24 COVID-19 vaccines on 9/12/23, and the removal of the special provider enrollment requirement that was in effect during the public health emergency response, most health care providers are now able to obtain and administer vaccines to patients, similar to flu and other immunizations.
- Insurance coverage is required: Per CARES Act Section 3203 insurance companies are required to provide coverage of COVID-19 vaccines. However, some insurance plans require cost sharing or co-pays. In those cases, the temporary [Federal Bridge Access Program](#) covers the cost of COVID-19 vaccination until the limited supply is exhausted. In July 2023, HHS issued guidance to payors to cover COVID-19 vaccination with the onset of commercialization in September.
- The original Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is still available for those aged 12 and older, but an updated version that targets the omicron subvariant is being evaluated and may be available later this year. Some stock of original Novavax is expected to expire this fall.
- Following [FDA regulatory action](#), the [CDC has recommended](#) updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines for everyone 6 months and older that target the omicron subvariant XBB.1.5:
 - **Children 6 months – 4 years old who are unvaccinated** should complete a multidose homologous initial series (2 doses of Moderna or 3 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine).
 - **Children 6 months – 4 years old who were previously vaccinated** are eligible to receive 1 or 2 homologous doses of a 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine (timing and number of doses to administer depends on the previous COVID-19 vaccine[s] received).

- **Anyone aged 5 years and older regardless of previous vaccination** is eligible to receive 1 dose of either 2023-2024 mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 2 months since the last dose of any COVID-19 vaccine.

April 19, 2023 - Schedule changed to use bivalent mRNA vaccines. Recommendation for an additional dose of bivalent vaccine for adults 65 years and older and immunocompromised individuals.

Recommendation for a total of one dose of bivalent vaccine for:

- Everyone 6 years of age and older.
- Everyone under 6 years of age: multiple doses, vary by age and vaccine products.
- Anyone already vaccinated with a bivalent vaccine will not need to take any action.
- Anyone who is in the middle of completing their monovalent primary series, will now receive a bivalent vaccine for their next dose, and no further action will be necessary.

March 16, 2023 – Bivalent boosters approved for pediatric patients who received the Pfizer Monovalent Series

- New recommendation for children ages 6 months–4 years who previously completed a 3-dose monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech primary series to receive 1 bivalent Pfizer-BioNTech booster dose at least 2 months after completion of the monovalent primary series.
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>

December 9, 2022 – Bivalent boosters approved for ages 6 months and older

- COVID-19 vaccine providers are now able to offer omicron variant-targeted bivalent booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines to children ages 6 months and older.
- The new recommendations include:
 - Children 6 months through 5 years of age who received the original (monovalent) two-dose Moderna COVID-19 vaccine series are now eligible to receive a booster of the updated (bivalent) Moderna COVID-19 vaccine two months after their last dose.
 - Children 6 months through 4 years of age who have not started or completed their three-dose Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine series will now receive the updated (bivalent) Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine as the third dose following two doses of the original (monovalent) Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Children 6 months through 4 years of age who have already completed their three-dose primary series with the original (monovalent) Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine are **not eligible** for an updated (bivalent) booster dose at this time.

October 19, 2022 – Novavax boosters approved for ages 18+

- Novavax COVID-19 boosters are available for adults 18+ if they have completed primary series vaccination but have not previously received a COVID-19 booster—and if they cannot or will not receive an updated mRNA booster.

October 12, 2022 – Bivalent boosters approved for ages 5+

- The bivalent Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is now available as a booster for ages 5 years and up and the Moderna bivalent vaccine is now available as a booster for ages 6 years and up.
- The monovalent mRNA vaccines are still authorized for use as a primary series for people ages 6 months and up. The monovalent mRNA vaccines are no longer authorized for use as a booster for anyone over 5 years of age.

September 1, 2022 – Bivalent boosters approved for 12 and older

- On August 31st, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [amended the emergency use authorizations](#) for the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA COVID-19 vaccines to include an updated booster, also called the Omicron or bivalent booster.
- Everyone 12 and older are eligible for a single booster dose of an age-appropriate bivalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) booster:
 - If it has been at least two months since they have completed primary vaccination or have received the most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine.
- The original, monovalent booster dose is [no longer authorized for people ages 12 years and older](#). The monovalent booster may still be administered to people ages 5 to 11 years.

August 20, 2022 – Novavax vaccine for adolescents 12+

- The Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is now authorized for those 12–17 years old.

July 19, 2022 – Novavax approved for 18 and older

- The Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine is a two-dose primary series given 3–8 weeks apart. People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should be given the 2nd dose after 3 weeks.
 - This vaccine is not authorized for use as a booster dose at this time.
 - This vaccine is not authorized to be followed by a booster of any type or brand at this time.

June 28, 2022 – Moderna approved for ages 6-17

- Updates for Moderna recommendations are as follows:
 - Children aged 6 years – 17 years can receive a 2-dose primary series of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Moderna is not authorized by the FDA for booster use at this time for those less than 18 years of age.

June 18, 2022 – Pfizer and Moderna approved for 6 months to 4/5 years

- This authorization for the COVID-19 vaccine now includes:
 - A 3-dose Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine primary series for children ages 6 months – 4 years
 - A 2-dose Moderna vaccine primary series for children ages 6 months – 5 years

May 19, 2022 – Boosters available for children 5-11; CDC strengthens their booster dose recommendations for some groups

- A booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for:
 - Children ages 5-11 five months after completing their primary vaccine series.
 - Immunocompromised children should receive their booster at least three months after their primary series.
- Everyone 12 and older should receive a booster dose of an age-appropriate mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) at least:
 - Five months after completing their primary vaccine series, or two months after receiving the single-shot Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine.
- Everyone 50 and older should receive a second booster of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) dose:
 - Four months after receiving their first booster dose.
- Individuals 12 and older who are [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#) should receive a second booster dose of an age-appropriate mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) at least:
 - Four months after receiving their first booster dose.
- Those 18 and older who received a primary vaccine and booster dose of the J&J vaccine four months ago can receive a second booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna).

March 30, 2022 - Providers in Washington state may immediately begin offering a second booster dose to eligible people to help prevent severe disease, hospitalization, and death.

- A second booster dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) may be administered:
 - Individuals 50 years of age and older at least 4 months after receipt of a first booster dose of any authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine.
- A second booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine may be administered:
 - Individuals 12 years of age and older with certain kinds of immunocompromise at least 4 months after receipt of a first booster dose of any authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine. These are people who have undergone solid organ transplantation, or who are living with conditions that are considered to have an equivalent level of immunocompromise.
- A second booster dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine may be administered:

- At least 4 months after the first booster dose of any authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine to individuals 18 years of age and older with the same certain kinds of immunocompromise.
- Additionally, based on newly published data, adults who received a primary vaccine and booster dose of Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen COVID-19 vaccine:
 - At least 4 months ago may now receive a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.
- The CDC and DOH recommend that:
 - Individuals 18+ choose to receive an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) instead of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine.

January 6, 2022: Boosters available for all 12+; additional doses for certain immunocompromised children; booster interval (5 months)

- DOH expanded booster dose eligibility to include everyone 12 and older. Youth ages 12 to 17 should receive a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at least 5 months after completing their primary vaccination series.

Do I qualify for a COVID-19 vaccine booster and which one?

Which primary vaccine series did you complete?	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	Janssen (J&J)
You can get a booster if:	It's been at least 5 months since completing a primary series AND you are:	It's been at least 5 months since completing a primary series AND you are:	It's been at least 2 months since completing primary vaccination AND you are:
	Age 12+	Age 18+	Age 18+
If eligible, you can get a booster of:	Pfizer-BioNTech* Moderna Janssen (J&J) <small>*Only Pfizer-BioNTech can be used as a booster in those age 12-17.</small>	Moderna Pfizer-BioNTech Janssen (J&J)	Janssen (J&J) Pfizer-BioNTech Moderna

For more information, visit www.fda.gov/covid19vaccines.

FDA U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The amended EUAs also allows for a third primary series dose of Pfizer for immunocompromised children, 5-17 years old. Moderately to severely immunocompromised children ages 5-11 years are recommended to receive an additional *primary* dose of Pfizer vaccine to ensure optimal protection.
- Adults ages 18 and older are eligible for a booster five months after completing a primary series of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine.

December 17, 2021: Vaccine preference

- The CDC and DOH recommend that individuals 18+ choose to receive an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) instead of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine.

November 20, 2021: Boosters available for all 18+

- Booster doses of all three COVID-19 vaccine types are authorized and recommended for everyone 18 and older.
- At least six months after receiving both doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine:
 - Adults aged 50 and older, or those 18 and older living in a long-term care facility, should receive a booster dose.
 - Those 18 through 49 may receive a booster dose.
- Everyone 18 and older who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine should get a booster shot two months after getting vaccinated.

November 3, 2021: Pfizer vaccine approved for children 5+

- Children 5-11 are now eligible for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

October 22, 2021: Moderna, J&J booster available for high-risk

- Moderna and J&J booster vaccines are now available for certain high-risk individuals.
 - At least six months after completing the primary Moderna vaccine series, the following groups of people are eligible for a booster dose:
 - Those 65 and older
 - Those 18 - 64 who live in long-term care settings
 - Those 18 - 64 who have underlying medical conditions or those at increased risk of social inequities
 - Those 18 - 64 who work or live in high-risk settings
 - At least two months after receiving the single-dose J&J vaccine, it is recommended that everyone 18 and older receive a booster dose.

September 24, 2021: Pfizer booster available for high-risk

- The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster dose recommended for certain individuals.
 - At least six months after completing the primary Pfizer vaccine series, the following individuals should receive a booster dose of the Pfizer vaccine:
 - People 65 years of age and older
 - People 18 years of age and older living in a long-term care setting
 - People 50 - 64 years of age with underlying medical conditions or those at increased risk of social inequities
 - Additionally, the following individuals who completed a Pfizer vaccine series at least six months ago may receive a Pfizer booster dose, including:
 - People who are 18 - 49 years of age with underlying medical conditions
 - People 18 - 64 years of age who are at higher risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission due to their occupational or institutional setting

August 23, 2021: Pfizer vaccine receives FDA approval

- The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is moved from emergency use authorization to full FDA approval for people age 16+, under the brand name Comirnaty.

August 14, 2021: Immunocompromised individuals

- A third dose (in the primary series) of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for certain immunocompromised individuals.
 - The third dose is not considered a booster, rather an additional dose for individuals who did not adequately develop immunities with the initial two-dose series. A full list of conditions is [available on the CDC's website](#).
 - A third dose for immunocompromised is only recommended for those who received an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna).

May 12, 2021: Pfizer vaccine for adolescents 12+

- The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is now authorized for those 12–17 years old.

April 15, 2021: Vaccine eligibility update

- The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized for age 16+.
- The Moderna and J&J COVID-19 vaccines are authorized for age 18+.

March 31, 2021: Vaccine eligibility update

- The COVID-19 vaccine is recommended to:
 - Anyone 16 or older with two or more underlying conditions
 - Anyone 60 and older
 - People/staff/volunteers in other congregate settings (such as group homes for people living with disabilities and shelters/service centers for people experiencing homelessness)
 - Other at-risk critical workers in certain congregate settings (such as restaurants/food services, manufacturing, and construction)

March 17, 2021: Vaccine eligibility update

- The COVID-19 vaccine is recommended to:
 - High risk critical workers in congregate settings (agriculture, fishing vessel crews, food processing, grocery stores, prisons/jails/detention centers, public transit)
 - Remaining first responders
 - Anyone 16 or older and pregnant
 - Anyone 16 or older with a disability that puts them at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness

March 2, 2021: Vaccine eligibility update

- The COVID-19 vaccine is recommended to:

- Pre-K and K-12 educators and staff
- Child care staff

January 18, 2021: Vaccine eligibility update

- The COVID-19 vaccine is recommended to:
 - Anyone 65 or older
 - Anyone 50 or older in a multi-generational household

December 31, 2020: Vaccine eligibility update

- The COVID-19 vaccine is recommended to:
 - All workers at risk in health care settings

December 14, 2020: Vaccine eligibility update

- The COVID-19 vaccine is recommended to:
 - High-risk workers in health care settings and high-risk first responders
 - Residents and staff of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other community-based, congregate living settings where most individuals over 65 years of age are receiving care, supervision, or assistance

Requirements

May 11, 2023: [Inslee ends vaccination requirement for Washington State agency employees](#)

- Gov. Jay Inslee rescinded Directive 22-13.1, ending the condition of employment related to COVID-19 vaccinations for executive cabinet and small cabinet agencies.

October 31, 2022: [Washington State COVID-19 state of emergency ends](#)

- On September 8, Gov. Jay Inslee announced the upcoming rescission of all remaining COVID-19 emergency proclamations and state of emergency by Oct. 31. [13 health care related orders will end Oct. 27](#) and the remaining 10 orders to be lifted on Oct. 31.

June 30, 2022: [Directive issued for state employees COVID-19 vaccination standards](#)

- Gov. Jay Inslee has [directed his](#) cabinet agencies to implement policies to require their employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19. At this time, current employees are not required to have recommended boosters, though current exempt and non-represented employees will need to be boosted consistent with CDC recommendations by July 1, 2023. In addition, during 2023–2025 successor bargaining occurring this summer (2022), the governor has directed that

management pursue a policy requiring current represented employees to be up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccination, including any boosters recommended by the CDC.

- The governor has also directed that agencies require all new employees to be fully up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccination prior to starting work, including any recommended boosters. This change will take effect at the conclusion of rulemaking, sometime in the fall of 2022.
- This directive applies to the governor’s executive and small cabinet agencies. The governor encourages other agencies such as higher education and agencies led by separately elected officials to consider implementing similar measures.

May 20, 2022: [Vaccination requirement update](#)

- Gov. Jay Inslee issued an update to [Proclamation 21-14.5](#) which outlines COVID-19 vaccination requirements for several categories of workers, volunteers and contractors engaged in work with public sector agencies, health care delivery and education. The update removes the vaccination requirement for outdoor contractors and volunteers whose work does not involve delivery of health care services.

March 1, 2022: [King County Vaccination Verification Policy Ends](#)

- [King County ends their local health order](#) requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test for entry into restaurants and bars, indoor recreational events and establishments, or outdoor events.

November 15, 2021: [Proof of vaccination, negative test update](#)

- Everyone aged 12+ at outdoor events or preregistered assembly of 10,000 or more individuals or 1,000 or more individuals at an indoor venue must show negative COVID-19 test or proof of vaccination.

October 25, 2021: Proof of vaccination, negative test

- [City of Seattle and King County](#): Ages 12+ at outdoor events of 500 or more people, indoor recreational events or establishments, restaurants, and bars must show negative COVID-19 test or [proof of vaccination](#).

October 18, 2021: [Vaccination requirement](#)

- Proclamation “21-14.3 COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENT” ordered COVID-19 vaccination for firefighters, county and municipal jail staff performing medical functions; licensed health care providers; employees and contractors of covered entities; federal and state employees, contractors and agencies performing health care services; employees of medical facilities, higher education student workers, and public, private and charter school employees in higher education institutions, K-12 educators, school staff, early learning coaches, bus drivers, school volunteers, and others working in school facilities.
- Vaccination Deadlines:

Vaccine	Series Dose Requirement	First Dose No Later Than	Second Dose	Completed Series	Fully Vaccinated = Two Weeks Past Final Dose (Required by 10/18)
Pfizer	2 doses, 21 days apart	09/13/21	10/04/21	10/04/21	10/18/21
Moderna	2 doses, 28 days apart	09/06/21	10/04/21	10/04/21	10/18/21
Janssen/Johnson & Johnson	Single dose	10/04/21	N/A	10/04/21	10/18/21

- [City of Seattle and King County](#) fire, police and sheriff employees are required to be vaccinated.
- The following counties defer to Washington State Department of Health and CDC mandates: [Adams](#), [Asotin](#), [Benton](#), [Chelan](#), [Clallam](#), [Clark](#), [Columbia](#), [Cowlitz](#), [Douglas](#), [Ferry](#), [Franklin](#), [Garfield](#), [Grant](#), [Grays Harbor](#), [Island](#), [Jefferson](#), [Kitsap](#), [Kittitas](#), [Klickitat](#), [Lewis](#), [Lincoln](#), [Mason](#), [Okanogan](#), [Pacific](#), [Pend Oreille](#), [Pierce](#), [San Juan](#), [Skagit](#), [Skamania](#), [Snohomish](#), [Spokane](#), [Stevens](#), [Thurston](#), [Wahkiakum](#), [Walla Walla](#), [Whatcom](#), [Whitman](#), and [Yakima](#).

Sources

[Guidance Summary: WA State Covid-19 Vaccine Prioritization Guidance and Allocation Framework](#)

[Washington’s COVID-19 Vaccine Phases](#)

[DOH news releases](#)

[Proclamation by the Governor Amending Proclamations 20-05 and 20-14, et seq. 21-14.3 Covid-19 Vaccination Requirement](#)

[Washington State to Mirror Federal Mandate](#)

[Proclamations by the Governor 21-16, 21-16.1 Requiring Vaccination Verification for Large Events](#)

[Proclamation 20-83.2 by the Governor Restrictions on Travelers](#)

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