

COVID-19 Vaccine Timeline

Eligibility & Restrictions



The following timeline includes a summary of important milestones for vaccine approval, availability, requirements, and restrictions. The most current information is listed first.

Eligibility

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.
- 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

Restrictions

December 2, 2021: [International air travel restriction](#)

- [Restrictions](#) on international airline crew members and travelers two years or older regardless of vaccination status to provide proof of negative COVID-19 test no more than one day before travel or documentation of recovery from COVID-19.

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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