

Community Questions and Answers:

Collaborative Meeting

November 3rd, 2021

Below are questions we received during the Collaborative space held on November 3rd, 2021. We compiled those questions and answers in this document.

If you have any questions and/or would like to follow-up, please feel free to contact us at Vax.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov.

Q: If someone loses their vaccine card, can they get the booster shot? How and where can someone get a reprint of their vaccine card?

A: Great question! A provider may need to confirm that you have completed the initial vaccine series before you receive your booster dose. If you lose your vaccination card:

- Option A: You can verify eligibility through your provider if that is where you got your original series. Your medical provider can verify and reprint an official proof of COVID-19 vaccination via electronic medical records
- Option B: Set up an account through [My IR Mobile](#), an internet-based portal that gives people access to their official state vaccination records. You can look up your vaccination records through the portal.
- Option C: Print a Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) form from the [Washington State Immunization Information System](#).

[For questions about vaccination records, call 833-VAX-HELP](#)

Additional Resources:

Visual Guide: Proof of Vaccination English	COVID-19 Vax Card/ MYIR Mobile Frequently Asked Questions English
Amharic (Adobe PDF) Arabic (Adobe PDF) Burmese (Adobe PDF)	Amharic (Adobe PDF) Arabic (Adobe PDF) Burmese (Adobe PDF)



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Tigrinya (Adobe PDF)	Tigrinya (Adobe PDF)
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Urdu (Adobe PDF)	Urdu (Adobe PDF)
Vietnamese	Vietnamese

Q: Do vaccine providers ask for proof if you are in the eligible categories or does being 6 months post second dose suffice?

A: Providers may need to verify proof (e.g., vaccination card) to ensure you have completed the initial vaccination series (2 dose series for Moderna or Pfizer and 1 dose for Jannessan/Johnson&Johnson).

Q: For the booster dose, can you mix vaccines? Is it better to mix vaccines or get the same vaccine as your original series?

A: Yes! You can get a different vaccine for your booster dose than the vaccine you got for your primary series. The CDC made their decision following a careful review of the latest data (Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, mix and match boosters), and robust and deliberative discussion around booster shots. The decision is up to you. For additional



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information, please visit our Vaccine Booster Doses webpage [English](#); [Spanish](#); [Amharic](#); [Arabic](#); [Burmese](#); [Chinese \(Simplified\)](#); [Chinese \(Traditional\)](#); [Chuukese](#); [Farsi](#); [Dari](#); [Fijian](#); [French](#); [German](#); [Hindi](#); [Hmong](#); [Japanese](#); [Karen](#); [Khmer \(Cambodian\)](#); [Korean](#); [Lao](#); [Marshallese](#); [Mixteco Bajo](#); [Nepali](#); [Oromo](#); [Pashto](#); [Portuguese \(Brazil\)](#); [Punjabi](#); [Romanian](#); [Russian](#); [Samoan](#); [Somali](#); [Spanish](#); [Swahili](#); [Tagalog](#); [Tamil](#); [Telugu](#); [Thai](#); [Tigrinya](#); [Tongan](#); [Ukrainian](#); [Urdu](#); [Vietnamese](#)

Q: For the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson, is it better to get an mRNA booster instead of another J&J dose?

A: The choice is entirely up to you! You may choose which COVID-19 vaccine you receive as a booster shot. Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type that they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different booster.

Q: Will the priority 5-11 year-old populations only include those discussed on the slide?

A: The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted everyone, but it has not impacted everyone equally. DOH has an obligation to ensure equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine. To ensure a pro-equity approach in vaccine prioritization and access, we are intentionally prioritizing communities and groups who are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 such as:

- Black and Indigenous youth and youth of color (BIPOC)
- Youth from immigrant & refugee families
- Youth with parents/guardians who have limited English proficiency
- Youth who are unhoused
- Youth in foster care or other transitional housing situations
- Youth with disabilities
- Youth in the juvenile rehabilitation systems, both in-facility and other residential programs
- Youth in group housing, for any reason
- Youth who live with a high-risk family member who is unable to receive the vaccine because of a medical issue
- Youth who live in a Census tract 7+ rank on the COVID-19 Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) index
- Youth from low-income households (i.e. youth eligible for free or reduced lunch)
- Youth eligible for Apple Health programs (Medicaid)



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- Youth with medical conditions that put them at risk for severe complications from COVID disease

Q: Can people who received their initial vaccine series in other countries, such as the Sinovac or AstraZeneca vaccines, receive a booster shot here in the US? Do these people need to restart the series to be considered for a booster in the US?

A: People who were vaccinated outside the United States and completed a primary vaccination series comprised of an FDA-authorized or FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine (i.e., a single dose of Janssen/J&J Vaccine or a 2-dose mRNA vaccine) may receive a booster dose (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Janssen) if they are eligible. [Considerations for use of a COVID-19 booster dose](#) can be consulted for more information.

People who have completed a 2-dose mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (including a mixed mRNA primary series) may receive an additional mRNA dose (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) at least 28 days after receiving the second mRNA vaccine dose if they are moderately or severely immunocompromised. [Considerations for COVID-19 vaccination in moderately and severely immunocompromised people](#) can be consulted for more information.

At this time, CDC has no recommendation regarding an additional primary dose or a booster dose for people who were vaccinated outside the United States with a WHO-EUL COVID-19 vaccine that is not FDA-authorized or approved.

Q: How long will the vaccine remain being free?

A: COVID-19 vaccines are available for everyone at no cost regardless of their immigration status or health insurance status. The federal government pays for the full cost of the vaccine. If you do not have health insurance, providers may not charge you for the vaccine and may be violating the requirements of the COVID-19 vaccine program. Please email covid.vaccine@doh.wa.gov if you get charged.

Q: I've had friends who've gotten sick from the booster. What are the risks of getting sick from the booster? Are elderly and vulnerable people more susceptible to getting sick from the booster?

A: There is no way to predict if you will feel side effects and the extent of the side effects. Like other vaccines, you may experience some side effects, which are normal



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signs that your body is building protection. Side effects include pain, redness, swelling at the site of injection; and/or tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, nausea.

Some people feel it after the first dose and then do not feel anything after the second or third dose. Some feel redness or soreness at the injection site and others feel cold like symptoms. The benefits of the booster doses far outweigh any potential side effects. For any health concerns, we recommend having a conversation with your provider to ensure that you are comfortable and confident in receiving a booster dose.

Additional Resources:

COVID-19 Vaccine Safety What To Know English	Is it COVID-19 or Vaccine Reaction English
Amharic (Adobe PDF)	Amharic (Adobe PDF)
Arabic (Adobe PDF)	Arabic (Adobe PDF)
Burmese (Adobe PDF)	Burmese (Adobe PDF)
Chinese (Simplified) (Adobe PDF)	Chinese (Simplified) (Adobe PDF)
Chinese (Traditional) (Adobe PDF)	Chinese (Traditional) (Adobe PDF)
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Dari (Adobe PDF)	Dari (Adobe PDF)
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Hanyu Pinyin (Adobe PDF)	Hanyu Pinyin (Adobe PDF)
Hindi (Adobe PDF)	Hindi (Adobe PDF)
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Q: Are there risks for children with autism getting the vaccine?

A: Vaccines do not cause autism. Studies have shown that there is no link between receiving vaccines and developing Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The National Academy of Medicine, formerly known as Institute of Medicine, reviewed the safety of 8 vaccines to children and adults. The review found that with rare exceptions, these vaccines are very safe. Source: [Adverse Effects of Vaccines: Evidence and Causality](#) [Institute of Medicine. 2012] (English).

A CDC study published in 2013 added to the research showing that vaccines do not cause ASD. The study focused on the number of antigens given during the first two years of life. Antigens are substances in vaccines that cause the body's immune system to produce disease-fighting antibodies. The results showed that the total amount of antigen from vaccines received was the same between children with ASD and those that did not have ASD. Source: [Increasing exposure to antibody-stimulating proteins and polysaccharides in vaccines is not associated with risk of autism](#) [J *Pediatr.* 2013](English)

For additional information, please see [CDC Vaccine Safety](#) (English)

Q: Will phasing of pediatric vaccines be contingent on vaccine supply? If we are doing phasing for pediatric vaccines, will it be announced by DOH or announced nationally?

A: The first few weeks that the pediatric population is eligible for the vaccine, the supply will be limited. We will receive over 230,000 doses in our state these first two weeks and an additional 38,000 doses from the federal channels. However, the population size for this groups is about 680,000 people. Due to this, we are trying to distribute the vaccine through an equitable process and ensure that we have allocated the appropriate number of vaccines in each county. This will be different than the phasing we did last



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year, but we do expect it to be difficult to get an appointment for 5–11-year-olds the first 1-3 weeks. We are looking at the uptake rate for the 12-15 -year-olds and we are expecting the uptakes for the 5-11 –year-olds to be similar, with a high demand in the first couple of weeks and then leveling off. In addition to looking at population size, we are utilizing other metrics to ensure equitable distribution to communities and populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 such as the [social vulnerability index](#) and partnering with providers effectively serving priority communities.

Q: Which vaccines do you need to wait 6 months for a booster, and which do you need to wait 2 months?

A:

- If you got the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine: You should wait [six months or more](#) after your second dose to get your booster
- If you got the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine: You should wait [six months or more](#) after your second dose to get your booster
- If you got the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine: You should get a booster dose [two months](#) after your first dose