



# Health Alert Network Message 22-06: Clarification of Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised People

Origination Date:  
January 22, 2022

Revision Dates (List All Revision Dates):

## Clarification of Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised People [\[i\]](#)

### Key Messages:

- Moderately or severely immunocompromised people 5 years and older should receive a 3rd dose in their primary series of an mRNA vaccine.
- Moderately or severely immunocompromised people should receive a 4th (booster) dose 5 months after completion of their primary series.

### Recommendations for an additional primary dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine in moderately or severely immunocompromised people after an initial 2-dose mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series

Moderately or severely immunocompromised people ages 5 years and older (Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine recipients) or ages 18 years and older (Moderna recipients) **should receive** an additional primary dose of the same mRNA COVID-19 vaccine administered for the primary series  $\geq 28$  days after completion of the initial 2-dose series. The additional primary mRNA COVID-19 dose should be the same vaccine product as the initial 2-dose mRNA COVID-19 primary series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna). [\[ii\]](#)

### Recommendations for a COVID-19 booster dose in people ages 12 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised

Moderately or severely immunocompromised people ages 12 years and older who received an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine primary series and an additional primary mRNA vaccine dose **should receive** a single COVID-19 booster dose (preferably with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine) at least 5 months after completing their additional primary dose.

If a moderately or severely immunocompromised person age 12 years or older has received two primary mRNA vaccine doses but has not yet received an additional mRNA primary dose, they should first receive the additional age-appropriate primary dose (at least 28 days after the second dose), followed by a single age-appropriate COVID-19 vaccine booster dose (at least 5 months after the additional primary dose). For people ages 12–17 years, the age appropriate COVID-19 primary series and booster dose can only be with the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

Moderately or severely immunocompromised people ages 18 years and older who received a single dose Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine primary series should receive a single COVID-19 vaccine booster dose two or more months after the first dose, preferably with an mRNA vaccine instead of the Janssen vaccine.

CDC Resources:

[Considerations for COVID-19 vaccination in moderately or severely immunocompromised people](#)

[ii](#) Moderate and severe immunocompromising conditions and treatments include but are not limited to: Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies; Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy; Receipt of CAR-T-cell therapy or hematopoietic cell transplant (HCT) (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy); Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome); Advanced or untreated HIV infection (people with HIV and CD4 cell counts  $<200/\text{mm}^3$ , history of an AIDS-defining illness without immune reconstitution, or clinical manifestations of symptomatic HIV); Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e.,  $\geq 20$  mg prednisone or equivalent per day when administered for  $\geq 2$  weeks), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, tumor necrosis factor (TNF) blockers, and other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory.

[iii](#) Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine is not authorized for use as an additional primary dose, and people who received a single-dose Janssen COVID-19 primary vaccine should not receive an additional primary dose. However, they should receive a booster dose.