

COVID-19 Vaccine Information Brief

March 29, 2022

Changes to the document from the previous version are highlighted in yellow.

IMPORTANT/NEW COVID-19 Vaccine Information

- **CDC Recommends Second Booster Dose of Two COVID-19 Vaccines for Older and Immunocompromised Individuals**
- **Shelf Life Extension for Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine**

CDC Recommends Second Booster Dose of Two COVID-19 Vaccines for Older and Immunocompromised Individuals

Following [FDA's regulatory action](#), CDC is updating its recommendations to allow certain immunocompromised individuals and people over the age of 50 who received an initial booster dose at least 4 months ago to be eligible for another mRNA booster to increase their protection against severe disease from COVID-19. Separately and in addition, 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.

Boosters are safe, and people over the age of 50 can now get an additional booster 4 months after their prior dose to increase their protection further. This is especially important for those 65 and older and those 50 and older with [underlying medical conditions](#) that increase their risk for severe disease from COVID-19 as they are the most likely to benefit from receiving an additional booster dose at this time. CDC, in collaboration with FDA and public health partners, will continue to evaluate the need for additional booster doses for all Americans.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorizations as follows:

- A second booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine or Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine may be administered to 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 to 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.

Resources

- [Comirnaty and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
 - [Spikevax and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
 - [Emergency Use Authorization for Vaccines Explained](#)
 - [Moderna press release](#)
 - [Pfizer press release](#)
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Shelf Life Extension for Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine

The Food & Drug Administration announced the approval of a shelf life extension for the [Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine](#) for **an additional three months**. The shelf life of this vaccine has been updated from 6 months to **9 months**. This shelf life extension applies to refrigerated vials of J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine that have been held in accordance with the manufacturer's storage conditions.

This shelf life extension applies to all inventory dated to expire on March 7, 2022 or later. Vaccine providers should visit the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Expiry Checker webpage to confirm expiration dates prior to March 7, 2022 before disposing of J&J vaccine. J&J did receive a shelf life extension for certain lots dated prior to March 7, 2022.

COVID-19 vaccines authorized under an EUA do not have fixed expiration dates, and expiration dates may be extended as more stability data becomes available. This decision is based on data from ongoing stability assessment studies, which have demonstrated that the vaccine is stable at 9 months when refrigerated at temperatures of 36° - 46° Fahrenheit (2° - 8° Celsius). **Healthcare providers should always check the manufacturer's website to obtain the most up-to-date expiration dates for the COVID-19 vaccines in inventory.**

Reporting vaccine wastage in IRIS:

- Verify all vaccine wastage is documented appropriately using the approved adjustment reasons included in the [Adjusting COVID-19 Vaccine Inventory for Wastage](#) instructions.
- **VACCINE WASTAGE ADJUSTMENT REASONS CANNOT BE USED TO CORRECT VACCINE INVENTORY FOR UNACCOUNTED DOSES.**

If healthcare providers have questions regarding IRIS and vaccine inventory, contact the IRIS Help Desk at 1-800-374-3958.