

TOPLINE KEY MESSAGES

- **The U.S. government is taking steps to simplify COVID-19 vaccine recommendations.**
 - This update helps lay the groundwork for more streamlined vaccine recommendations this fall when the U.S. anticipates shifting toward a simpler COVID-19 immunization schedule.
 - Among the changes:
 - CDC now recommends that everyone ages 6 years and older receive an updated (bivalent) mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of whether they previously completed their (monovalent) primary series.
 - For most individuals who have not yet received any COVID-19 vaccine, this update means they will now receive 1 dose of the updated vaccine.
 - Individuals ages 6 years and older who have already received an updated mRNA vaccine do not need to take any action unless they are 65+ or immunocompromised.
 - For young children, multiple doses continue to be recommended and will vary by age, vaccine, and which vaccines were previously received.
 - Monovalent (original) COVID-19 mRNA COVID-19 vaccines will no longer be recommended for use in the U.S.
 - CDC also updated its recommendations to allow an additional updated (bivalent) vaccine dose for adults ages 65 years and older and additional doses for people who are immunocompromised. This update allows more flexibility for healthcare providers to administer additional doses to immunocompromised patients as needed.
 - CDC continues to recommend that everyone stay up to date with recommended COVID-19 vaccines. Most people in the U.S. have not yet received an updated COVID-19 vaccine, with uptake at less than 17 percent. Everyone who has not received a COVID-19 vaccine since September 2022 (when the updated vaccines were authorized) should get the updated vaccine to better protect themselves from severe illness and death. This is particularly important for older people and those with underlying health conditions who are at higher risk.
 - You are up to date when you have received the most recent COVID-19 vaccine dose(s) recommended for you by CDC.
 - If you're 6 years and older, you are up to date when you've received an updated (bivalent) COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Children younger than 6 years are up to date when they've received all doses recommended by CDC.
 - **Older adults now have the option to receive an additional updated (bivalent) COVID-19 vaccine dose.**
 - If you're ages 65 and older and received an updated COVID-19 vaccine dose (either Pfizer or Moderna) at least 4 months ago, you may now choose to receive an additional dose.
 - Approximately 20 million adults in this age group are estimated to have received an updated booster dose at least 4 months ago.
 - The updated COVID-19 vaccine continues to provide protection against severe COVID-19 disease.
 - However, older adults are at [increased risk](#) for severe illness from COVID-19, and some may benefit from an additional dose.
 - **People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised are now able to get additional updated (bivalent) COVID-19 vaccine doses as needed.**

- If you're moderately or severely immunocompromised, and previously received an updated COVID-19 vaccine dose (either Pfizer or Moderna) at least 2 months ago, you can receive additional updated vaccine doses.
- CDC's updated guidance allows more flexibility for healthcare providers to administer additional doses to their immunocompromised patients as needed, taking into consideration the individual's clinical circumstances.
- People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised make up about 3% of U.S. adults (nearly 8 million people) and include recipients of organ or stem cell transplants, people with advanced or untreated HIV infection, people currently undergoing treatment for cancer, people who are taking certain medications that weaken the immune system, and others. Additional examples of immunocompromising conditions can be found on [CDC's website](#).
- An additional dose could help restore protection that may wane over time and provide peace of mind for those who want optimal protection as soon as possible.
- **COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and CDC recommends everyone stay up to date.**
 - Hundreds of millions of people in the United States have safely received COVID-19 vaccines under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history.
 - U.S. government agencies use multiple, [complementary vaccine safety monitoring systems](#) to help quickly detect possible safety concerns (or signals) with vaccines.
 - More than 674 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in the U.S. since vaccination efforts began. An estimated 55 million people have received an updated booster dose.
 - In COVID-19 bivalent booster vaccine monitoring, CDC's Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD) detected a potential safety concern for ischemic stroke among people ages 65 years and older who received the updated Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent booster vaccine.
 - As time has passed and more safety data have accumulated, the initial finding has decreased, and scientists believe factors other than vaccination might have contributed to the initial finding.
 - Based on this additional data and analysis, the current evidence is not sufficient to conclude that a safety problem exists.
 - The potential safety concern for ischemic stroke was only identified in one monitoring system, the VSD, and only among people ages 65 and older who received the updated Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. No concern was observed for the updated Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in VSD. FDA and CDC will continue to evaluate data as they are available, and update COVID-19 vaccine guidance as needed.
 - FDA and CDC will continue to evaluate data as they are available, and update COVID-19 vaccine guidance as needed.
 - CDC continues to recommend that everyone ages six months and older should stay up to date with all COVID-19 vaccines, including an updated vaccine. This is particularly important for older adults and people with underlying health conditions who are at higher risk for severe COVID-19.