People with Weakened Immune Systems & COVID-19 Vaccine

If you have a weakened immune system, you are more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19. People with weakened immune systems are recommended to receive an additional dose* of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), and a booster dose**:

- An additional shot of an mRNA vaccine is recommended 28 days after completing your primary series (starting dose(s)), since you may not have received enough protection from these beginning dose(s).
- A booster dose is recommended after the additional dose. Protection from vaccines can decrease over time, but this booster dose helps to bring that protection back!

This includes people who have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received a stem cell transplant within past 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress immune response

If you have trouble getting your recommended doses, call 855-568-0545 for help.

*People with weakened immune systems are recommended to receive an additional dose of an mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) vaccine plus a booster dose.

The additional dose is recommended 28 days after completing the primary series (starting dose(s)).

**The timing between the additional dose and the booster depends on the vaccine you received for your primary series:

- If you received Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna two-dose primary series: Booster dose is recommended at least 3 months after the additional dose for a total of four doses.
- If you received Johnson & Johnson (J&J)/Janssen one-dose primary series: Booster dose is recommended at least 2 months after the additional dose for a total of three doses.

Everyone ages 12 and older is recommended to receive a booster dose. For those 18 and older, any of the COVID-19 vaccines can be used for the booster dose, but Pfizer or Moderna is preferred. You may get Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen COVID-19 vaccine in some situations.

Adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For more information about COVID-19 vaccines visit covid19.nj.gov/vaccine.