



FAQ for 3rd Dose of mRNA Vaccine for Immunocompromised Individuals for Long-Term Care Facilities

Should everyone receive 3rd dose?

Current guidance applies to those individuals identified to be immunocompromised and to have been fully vaccinated with an mRNA vaccine. Due to the difficulty accurately determining which individuals living in a long-term care facility may be immunocompromised and eligible to receive a 3rd dose, **all residents who have been fully vaccinated** with two doses of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) 28 days or more prior **should be offered a 3rd dose**.

Is a doctor's order needed?

- No. Additionally, long-term care patients will be deemed as meeting the criteria for the third dose.

What conditions qualify someone for a third dose?

Immunocompromised conditions 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 or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge, Wiskott-Aldrich syndromes)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., ≥ 20 mg prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, TNF blockers, and other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory

What if a resident received the 1 dose Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine?

- Individuals who received the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine should not receive an additional dose of any COVID-19 vaccine at this time.



What is the Difference between a 3rd dose and a booster?

- **3RD Dose:** administration of an additional vaccine dose when the initial immune response following a primary vaccine series is likely to be insufficient.
- **Booster dose:** a dose of vaccine when the initial sufficient immune response to a primary vaccine series is likely to have waned over time. At this time, booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine are not recommended.

Should antibody testing be used to determine if a 3rd dose is needed?

No. Antibody testing is not recommended for vaccine decision-making or to assess immunity following vaccination.

Long-term care facilities should:

- Offer ALL residents who have completed an mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) series at least 28 days or more prior a 3rd dose utilizing an institutional pharmacy.
- The same brand mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) should be used for the 3rd dose as was used for the two-dose series.
- Offer all residents who have not yet completed a COVID-19 vaccine series a first or second dose of an mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) or Janssen vaccine.
- [Directory of Long-Term Care Facilities](#)

Personal Care Homes should:

- Identify individuals within their facility who meet the current requirements for the 3rd dose or who have not completed an initial COVID-19 vaccine series and arrangements should be made with their institutional pharmacy.

Other levels of congregate care should:

- These facilities types include:
 - ICF-IID
 - Assisted Living
 - Personal Care Home
 - HUD or other senior housing



- Independent Living Community
- Other levels of care outside of Skilled care in a CCRC
- Provide information to all residents related to the need for a 3rd dose individuals that meet the immunocompromised conditions listed above.
- Facilities should also coordinate arrangements for their residents who meet the conditions to gain access to a 3rd dose (e.g., primary care physician appointment, local pharmacy partner, or local health department).

How can patients get transportation provided?

Please visit this site to see if free transportation is provided in your area [Transportation Finder](#)

Who can help me if I am unsure about needing a 3rd dose?

- Immunocompromised individuals, including Long-term care residents may discuss with their health care provider whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for them. This will help ensure there are not additional barriers to access for this vulnerable population receiving a needed additional dose. CDC is providing further information regarding vaccine administration to immunocompromised individuals to states, pharmacies, health centers, and all vaccine providers.

Additional information

- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People](#)
- [FDA EUA announcement](#)
- [ACIP Presentation Slides: August 13, 2021 Meeting](#)
- [ACIP's General Guidance on Vaccination of the Immunocompromised](#)
- [IDSA Clinical Practice Guideline for Vaccination of the Immunocompromised](#)
- [Vaccine Finder KY](#)