



2019 Novel Coronavirus [COVID-19]

phd3.idaho.gov/covid19

FAQ: Booster Doses of Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine

The FDA, CDC, and Idaho Health and Welfare have authorized and recommended the administration of booster doses of the Pfizer/BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine. If you completed the primary 2 dose series of Pfizer brand of COVID-19 vaccine **not less than 6 months ago** and meet certain criteria; you may be eligible to receive the third booster.

Why would someone need a booster?

Studies are showing that protection against the COVID-19 virus may decrease over time after receiving the vaccine. The vaccine is still effective in preventing severe disease, however recent studies have shown there is a reduced capability to prevent infection and mild illness. Data from a small clinical trial show that a Pfizer-BioNTech booster dose increased the immune response in trial participants who finished their primary series 6 months earlier. With an increased immune response, people should have improved protection against COVID-19, including the Delta variant.

Who is eligible for the Pfizer booster?

Only individuals that received the **Pfizer vaccine over six months ago** can receive a booster at this time. Individuals must also fall into one of these categories:

- People ages 65 years and older
- Residents of long-term care facilities
- People ages 50-64 with underlying medical conditions
- People ages 18-49 with underlying medical conditions, based on individual benefit and risk
- People ages 18-64 at an increased risk of exposure and transmission due to the type of work they do (including teachers and healthcare workers) or because they live or work in an institutional setting

For more information:

<https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/covid-19.html>

This document was created 09/30/2021 using information and guidance available to-date and is subject to change per emerging guidance.