

COVID-19 Booster Shots for New Yorkers 65+

With information changing almost daily, it's understandable to have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine booster shots. This fact sheet lays out evidence-based information about the COVID-19 booster shots for New Yorkers ages 65+.

Why would I need a booster shot?



Boosters ensure that you continue to have maximum protection against COVID-19, and especially against COVID-19 hospitalization.

Recent studies show that booster doses help [increase protection](#) against infection, including [severe infections](#). This is especially important for people over age 65.

Most vaccines, such as [routine childhood vaccinations](#), are given in a series, and many require updated boosters.

What is the updated “bivalent” COVID-19 boosters?

This fall, the FDA authorized an updated COVID-19 booster from Pfizer and Moderna. Like the annual flu vaccine, the updated boosters have been made to better protect against the most recent strain of the virus. The updated boosters are called bivalent vaccines because they target both the original COVID-19 strain and the BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants.

How do I know when to get my booster shot?



Pfizer / Moderna: after a primary series of 2 doses given over 2 months ago.

Johnson & Johnson: after a primary series of 1 dose given over 2 months ago.

All New Yorkers over age 65 are [encouraged](#) to stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines by getting a booster shot.

Do I have to get the same vaccine as my initial dose(s)?

Updated boosters are available from both Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna. The booster dose does not have to be the same as your initial dose(s). Visit <https://on.ny.gov/35PI87V> for more information about boosters. If you have any questions, consult with your healthcare provider.

What side effects can I expect from the booster shot?

[Side effects](#) of COVID-19 booster shots are usually mild or moderate. Pain at the injection site is the most common side effect of the updated boosters. Other common side effects include headaches, muscle pain, and tiredness.

Can I get a booster at the same time as my annual flu shot?

Yes, COVID-19 vaccines (including boosters) can be given at the same time as the flu shot. You can find more guidance about flu vaccines on the [CDC website](#).

How do I get a booster shot?



You can schedule an appointment or find a walk-in site online or by phone. You do not need to ask for the updated booster. The original booster is no longer being provided. A booster shot is **free**.

ONLINE

Go to VaccineFinder.nyc.gov and choose your preferred brand under the “Any vaccine” drop-down menu.

BY PHONE

Call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692) for help finding a vaccination site.

IN-HOME VACCINATIONS

Go to forms.cityofnewyork.us/f/home or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692).

TRANSPORTATION

to and from a vaccine appointment is available for city residents ages 65+ who have access to Access-a-Ride (877-337-2017) or have Medicaid-provided transportation (844-666-6270).

Information about boosters in other languages: [Español](#) | [简体中文](#) | [Other](#)