



# COVID-19 Vaccine Third Doses & Boosters

## Information You Can Trust (as of Sept. 7, 2021)

**Information Sources:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

### Third Dose for Immunocompromised (available now)

- On August 13, 2021, the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issued a recommendation for a third dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) for immunocompromised individuals (whether due to a medical condition or receipt of immunosuppressive medications or treatments) who received their second dose at least 28 days earlier.
- Examples of immunocompromised patients/conditions include:
  - Active cancer treatment patient (chemotherapy / radiation)
  - Organ transplant recipient taking immunosuppressant drugs
  - Stem cell transplant recipient in last two years
  - Active recipient of high dose corticosteroids or other immune suppressing drugs
  - Person with advanced or untreated HIV
  - Person with moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency
- Kick COVID-19's provider partners immediately notified their eligible patients and began scheduling/administering third doses of Pfizer (for age 12 and up) and Moderna (for age 18 and up).
- If you think you are eligible to receive a third dose under this recommendation, speak with your primary care provider. If your primary care provider agrees, but cannot administer the third dose, obtain a prescription and schedule your third dose with an authorized provider as soon as possible.
- If you live in Lackawanna County and need help planning your third dose, or if you are medically homebound and need your third dose delivered, dial 211.
- An additional dose recommendation has not yet been made for the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine (age 18 and up).

### Booster Shots for General Population (not yet available)

- On August 21, 2021, public health and medical experts from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a statement unveiling the Biden Administration's plan to make available Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 booster shots for the general population beginning the week of September 20, and six months after an individual's second dose.
- While the plan was announced in anticipation of the COVID-19 vaccines' waning protection over time and considering the highly contagious Delta variant, it remains subject to FDA evaluation and ACIP recommendation based on a thorough review of the evidence.



- Those who will likely be eligible for a booster first include individuals who were fully vaccinated earliest in the rollout, such as health care providers, nursing home and long-term care residents, seniors, and other vulnerable residents in congregate settings.
- Although it is anticipated that Johnson & Johnson vaccine boosters will also be needed, because that vaccine did not roll out until March 2021, a determination is expected to come later.
- The FDA has scheduled a meeting for September 17, 2021, to discuss.
- This document will be updated as additional information becomes available and details are finalized.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**1. Who can get third dose of a COVID-19 vaccine today?**

A third dose of the Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines is currently available for moderately or severely immunocompromised people (age 12 and up for Pfizer, age 18 and up for Moderna).

**2. Why do immunocompromised people need a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?**

The vaccine must activate your immune system to protect you. In some immunocompromised patients, this ability is impaired, so a third dose can increase the immune response.

**3. How soon after completing the second dose can the third dose be given?**

The third dose can be given as early as 28 days after the second dose of Moderna or Pfizer.

**4. Does the third dose deliver the same amount of vaccine as the first and second doses?**

Yes.

**5. Are the side effects from the third dose similar to the second dose?**

Yes, the side effects are very similar to the second dose.

**6. If I received one mRNA brand (i.e., Moderna) of vaccine for my first and second doses, can I get the other (i.e., Pfizer) for my third dose?**

The other mRNA vaccine may only be substituted if the original brand is not available. If you have it, be sure to bring your CDC vaccine card with you to your appointment.

**7. If I received a Johnson & Johnson vaccine, can I get a second dose of an mRNA vaccine?**

Not at this time.

**8. With flu season approaching, can I receive a flu vaccine at the same time that I receive a COVID-19 vaccine (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> dose)?**

Yes. COVID-19 vaccines can be given on the same day as flu and other vaccines, and should be administered in different limbs, if possible.

**9. Will I need to see the same provider who administered my first and second doses for a third or booster dose?**

You can make an appointment with any provider that is convenient for you, regardless of whether or not the provider administered your earlier doses. Following is a list of Kick COVID's provider partners in Lackawanna County:



Provider	Address	Phone/Web
Delta Medix, PC	The Marketplace at Steamtown 300 Lackawanna Ave. Ste. 200 Scranton, PA 18503	570-342-7864 <a href="http://www.deltamedix.com">www.deltamedix.com</a>
DePietro's Pharmacy	617 3 <sup>rd</sup> St. Dunmore, PA 18512	570-209-7440 <a href="http://www.depietropharmacy.com">www.depietropharmacy.com</a>
Hometown Health Care of NEPA	921 Drinker Turnpike, Ste. 13 Daleville, PA 18444	(570) 795-9795 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/hometownhealthNEPA">@hometownhealthNEPA</a> on Facebook
Medicap Pharmacy Olyphant	518 Burke Bypass Olyphant, PA 18447	570-383-6700 <a href="http://olyphant.medicap.com/">http://olyphant.medicap.com/</a>

Search for other providers at <https://vaccines.gov>. If you are in need of additional vaccinations at the same time as your COVID shot, be sure to indicate so when making your appointment. Remember to bring your CDC vaccine card to your appointment.

**Kick COVID-19 Community Corps** is a collaborative between Lackawanna County, the City of Scranton, local healthcare providers, social service agencies, faith groups, cultural organizations, economic and educational institutions, and volunteers. Our mission is to stop the spread of COVID-19 through a grassroots campaign that educates, informs, and motivates the region's most vulnerable populations to be vaccinated and encourages meaningful acts of service. Kick COVID is a member of HHS COVID-19 Community Corps.