



## What older adults should know about COVID-19 and pneumococcal vaccines: Suggested talking points

- **The CDC recommends that high-risk groups get an additional dose of the 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine after six months.**
  - These recommendations apply to people 65 and older and immunocompromised people.
  - The shot will be an additional dose of the updated 2024-2025 Pfizer, Moderna, or Novavax vaccines.
  - It's safe to receive additional vaccine doses from any of the three manufacturers, regardless of which COVID-19 vaccines you received in the past.
  - [Immunocompromised people](#) may need more than two doses of the 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine and should discuss the best vaccine schedule for them with their health care provider.
  - Anyone who has not yet received an updated COVID-19 vaccine can get it now. It's safe to receive an updated COVID-19 vaccine, flu vaccine, and RSV vaccine (if eligible) [at the same time](#).
  - Find pharmacies with vaccines near you at [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).
- **Older adults and immunocompromised people need additional COVID-19 vaccines because they're more vulnerable to a severe COVID-19 infection.**
  - Between October 2023 and April 2024, people 65 and older [accounted for 70 percent](#) of COVID-19-related hospitalizations. Compared to people between the ages of 18 and 39, people 75 and older were about nine times as likely to die from COVID-19 in 2021, but that margin has continually widened over time.
  - Among adults who are hospitalized due to a COVID-19 infection, immunocompromised people are around [1.4 times more likely](#) to die than those who are not immunocompromised.
  - This increased risk of severe illness and death occurs because both older adults and immunocompromised people [don't make adequate germ-fighting cells](#), which makes it harder for their bodies to fight off COVID-19 and other infections.
  - Older adults are also more likely to have underlying health conditions that increase the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19, such as diabetes or heart disease.
  - Staying up to date on COVID-19 vaccines reduces the likelihood of severe illness, hospitalization, long-term health complications, and death.
- **The [pneumococcal vaccine](#) is recommended for children under 5, adults 50 and older, and people at risk for severe pneumococcal disease.**
  - This vaccine protects against *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, a bacteria that can cause infections like pneumonia and meningitis, which are particularly dangerous for young children and older adults.
  - About one in 12 children and one in six older adults who develop pneumococcal meningitis [will die from the infection](#).
  - Adults can get a pneumococcal vaccine at some pharmacies or at a health care provider's office. Children may need to get vaccinated by their pediatrician.



## What older adults should know about COVID-19 and pneumococcal vaccines: Frequently asked questions

### 1. Who is eligible for additional doses of the 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine?

The CDC recommends that people 65 and older and immunocompromised people who receive a 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine this fall get another shot six months after their fall dose. It's safe to receive additional vaccine doses from Pfizer, Moderna, or Novavax, regardless of which COVID-19 vaccines you received in the past.

[Immunocompromised people](#) may need more than two doses of the 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine and should discuss the best vaccine schedule for them with their health care provider.

Anyone 6 months and older who has not yet received a 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine can get one now. Find pharmacies with vaccines near you at [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

### 2. What are the benefits of staying up to date on COVID-19 vaccines?

[Staying up to date](#) on COVID-19 vaccines reduces the likelihood of severe illness, hospitalization, long-term health complications, and death. Getting vaccinated is especially important for older adults and immunocompromised people, as these groups are at higher risk of severe outcomes from a COVID-19 infection. Older adults and immunocompromised people [don't make adequate germ-fighting cells](#), so they need additional COVID-19 vaccine doses to help them fight off the virus.

### 3. Who needs a pneumococcal vaccine?

The [pneumococcal vaccine](#) is recommended for children under 5, adults 50 and older, and people with health conditions that put them at risk of severe pneumococcal disease. It protects against *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, a bacteria that can cause infections like pneumonia and meningitis, which are particularly dangerous for young children and older adults.

Adults can get a pneumococcal vaccine at some pharmacies or at a health care provider's office. Children may need to get vaccinated by their pediatrician.