



**TULARE COUNTY  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

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**Eligibility for Additional COVID-19 Booster Vaccines**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) have updated COVID-19 booster vaccine advisories with expanded eligibility for higher risk persons. An initial booster vaccine remains strongly recommended for everyone age 12 years and older once eligible.

A second booster vaccine of Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna is now available for:

- Persons age 50 years and older
- Immunosuppressed persons age 12 years and older
- Persons who received Johnson & Johnson

Talk with your provider if you have questions about your eligibility. Considerations may include having or living with someone who has a high-risk health condition as well as exposure risk factors such as living in a congregate setting, working in healthcare, or upcoming travel.

Vaccine recommendations continue to be updated as new data becomes available. While the vaccine remains very effective at preventing hospitalization and death from COVID-19, booster vaccines help ensure ongoing protection and are a normal part of most vaccine series.

Staying up-to-date with vaccines helps protect the health and well-being of all family members in the home. Booster vaccines are available at any pharmacy or clinic where COVID-19 vaccine is offered. Visit [myturn.ca.gov](http://myturn.ca.gov) or call 1-833-422-5255 for appointments and clinic locations.

<b>Intervals for primary &amp; booster COVID-19 vaccines (for persons who are <u>not</u> immunosuppressed)</b>					
<b>Vaccine</b>	<b>Ages</b>	<b>Dose 1 (primary #1)</b>	<b>Dose 2 (primary #2)</b>	<b>Dose 3 (booster #1)</b>	<b>Dose 4 (booster #2)</b>
<b>Pfizer BioNTech</b>	5 yo+	ASAP	≥ 3-8 weeks* from dose 1	<u>For all 12 yo+</u> ≥ 5 months from dose 2	<u>For all 50 yo+</u> ≥ 4 months from dose 3
<b>Moderna</b>	18 yo+	ASAP	≥ 4-8 weeks* from dose 1	<u>For all 18 yo+</u> ≥ 5 months from dose 2	<u>For all 50 yo+</u> ≥ 4 months from dose 3
<b>Johnson &amp; Johnson**</b>	18 yo+	ASAP	--	<u>All recipients</u> ≥ 2 months from dose 1 <i>mRNA vaccine preferred</i>	<u>For 50 yo+</u> ≥ 4 months from booster 1 <u>For 18-49 yo</u> ≥ 4 months from booster 1 if both doses were J&J

\*3-4 weeks is standard, but longer intervals for males 12-39 years old may reduce the rare risk of myocarditis in this group  
\*\* CDC no longer advises Johnson & Johnson unless unable to get mRNA vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna)

## Intervals for primary & booster COVID-19 vaccines for persons age 12 years and older who are immunosuppressed

Vaccine	Age	Dose 1 (primary #1)	Dose 2 (primary #2)	Dose 3 (primary #3)	Dose 4 (booster #1)	Dose 5 (booster #2)
<b>Pfizer BioNTech</b>	12 yo+	ASAP	≥ 3 weeks from dose 1	≥ 4 weeks from dose 2	≥ 3 months from dose 3	≥ 4 months from dose 4
<b>Moderna</b>	18 yo+	ASAP	≥ 4 weeks from dose 1	≥ 4 weeks from dose 2	≥ 3 months from dose 3	≥ 4 months from dose 4
<b>Johnson &amp; Johnson**</b>	18 yo+	ASAP	≥ 4 weeks from dose 1 <u>with mRNA vaccine</u>	--	≥ 2 months from dose 2 <u>with mRNA vaccine</u>	≥ 4 months from booster 1 <u>with mRNA vaccine</u>

\*\* CDC no longer advises Johnson & Johnson unless unable to get mRNA vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna)

How do I know if I am immunosuppressed?

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure. This is when the body's immune system is significantly weakened, so the body cannot build up defenses or fight off infections as well as it normally does. Examples of health conditions that can cause immunosuppression may include:

- Organ transplants or stem cell transplants
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency syndromes like DiGeorge syndrome or Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Taking prescription medicines that affect your immune system—this is common for health conditions like certain cancers, organ transplants, and autoimmune diseases (e.g. rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, multiple sclerosis, or psoriasis). Examples include chemotherapy, high-dose steroids, Humira, Rituxan, Tysabri, Remicade, mycophenolate, tacrolimus, cyclosporine, and others. Certain treatments may also require special timing for vaccinations, so it is important to talk to your provider.