

# COVID-19

## Booster Shots: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

This WorkCare FAQ focuses on COVID-19 booster shot recommendations for fully vaccinated employees.

**Q:** *Have COVID-19 booster shots been approved for use in the U.S.?*

**A:** The [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) authorized the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine as a booster shot for individuals who are 65 years and older or at high risk for serious illness on Sept. 22, 2021. The authorization includes adults age 18-64 whose occupation puts them at high risk for exposure. Information on when a booster for the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines is pending.

**Q:** *When should eligible adults get a booster shot after being fully vaccinated?*

**A:** The booster is recommended eight months after the second mRNA dose.

**Q:** *Who will be the first to receive booster shots?*

**A:** The Pfizer-BioNTech booster is currently available for those who are 65 years and older or at high risk. There has not been a recommendation for a booster for the general population. Effective Aug. 13, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that vaccinated adults who have had an organ transplant or are immunocompromised receive a third dose at least 28 days after their second shot to provide greater resistance to infection. These individuals should consult with their medical provider.

**Q:** *Why are booster shots needed?*

**A:** Without a booster, fully vaccinated people are well protected from getting seriously ill or dying. A booster provides even greater protection because it promotes the production of antibodies against the virus that causes COVID, including the

highly contagious Delta variant. However, a fully vaccinated person can still get a break-through infection and spread the virus to others, especially if the person doesn't feel ill or is not taking precautions such as wearing a mask or practicing social distancing. In general, the effectiveness of any type of vaccine wanes over time.



**Q:** *Can we use WorkMatters, WorkCare's secure portal, to track employees' vaccination status?*

**A:** Yes, users can record vaccination status, including boosters, in WorkMatters. For the time being, WorkCare considers fully vaccinated employees to have a high degree of protection against serious illness regardless of whether they have had a booster shot.

**Q:** *What advice do you have for employers to help them navigate the constantly changing pandemic landscape?*

**A:** Keep in touch with WorkCare. We continuously monitor scientific findings, public health recommendations and government policies. This fluid situation requires patience while clinical guidance is being formulated in response to changing conditions and new data. We will get through this together.