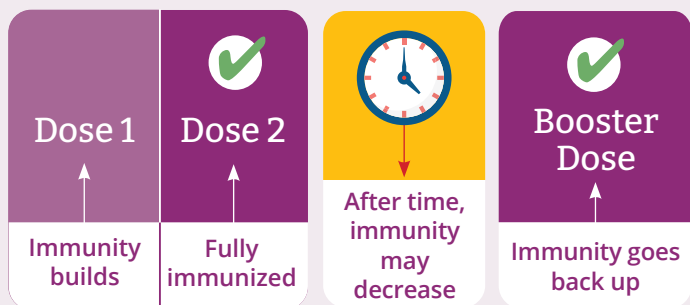


While booster doses and 3rd doses for COVID-19 may seem similar, they actually have very different purposes.

Booster dose

A booster dose is given as immunity may decrease over time.

A booster dose helps you maintain and lengthen your protection against COVID-19.



For people who received the Janssen vaccine, only 1 dose is needed to be fully immunized.

Who is a booster dose for?

Everyone 12 years and older will be invited to get a booster dose, 6 months after their 2nd dose. If you are pregnant or got the Janssen vaccine, you will be invited 2 months after your 2nd dose.

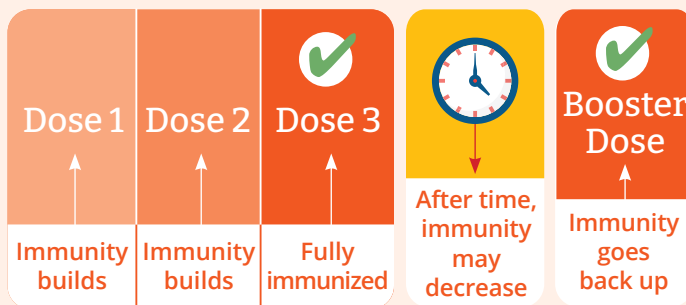


Which vaccine is recommended for a booster dose?

- You will be offered an mRNA vaccine, either **Moderna** or **Pfizer**.
- There is no need for your booster to be the same brand as your previous vaccines.
- Getting an mRNA vaccine booster is highly effective and safe, even if you received AstraZeneca or Janssen vaccine for a previous dose.

3rd dose

Some people, like people with compromised immune systems, need 3 doses to achieve the level of protection that most people get with 2 doses.



For people with compromised immune systems who received the Janssen vaccine, 2 doses are needed to be fully immunized.

Who is a 3rd dose for?

A 3rd dose is recommended for people with **moderate to severely compromised immune systems** such as those receiving dialysis or active cancer treatment. See the full list on the [BCCDC website](#) or speak to a medical care provider.



Which vaccine is recommended for a 3rd dose?

- The **Moderna** vaccine is recommended for a 3rd dose as it helps develop a slightly stronger immune response in people with compromised immune systems.
- If Moderna is not available, the Pfizer vaccine also provides an effective increase in immunity.
- There is no need for your 3rd dose to be the same brand as your previous vaccines.

What you need to know

You will be notified when you are eligible for your booster or 3rd dose. Make sure you are registered in the [Get Vaccinated](#) system online or by calling **1-833-838-2323**.

Your invitation to get vaccinated will say whether you are getting a booster or 3rd dose.

- It is important to get all the recommended doses, including booster doses, to have the best protection against COVID-19, especially severe disease.
- At this time, there is no requirement to get a booster or 3rd dose to be considered fully vaccinated for the **B.C. Vaccine Card**.

To learn more, visit:

gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/booster

bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine

Or call **8-1-1**.