



COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for People with HIV

Version: 1/10/22

COVID-19 vaccination is a highly effective and safe tool to prevent COVID-19 infection and serious illness due to COVID-19, including for people with HIV who may be at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19. CDC [recommends](#) COVID-19 vaccination for people with HIV [except for those](#) with a condition that excludes them from vaccination. Exclusions are rare but include a serious allergic reaction to one of the components of the COVID-19 vaccines or to a previous dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccines are paid for by the federal government and are free to patients, regardless of immigration status or whether they have health insurance. This document covers the latest vaccination recommendations for people with HIV, including for booster and supplemental doses, based on [CDC's recommendations](#) and FDA authorizations for the [Pfizer/BioNTech](#), [Moderna](#) and [J&J/Janssen](#) vaccines. **Everyone is encouraged to stay up-to-date on their vaccines by following the latest recommendations for supplemental doses for individuals who are immunocompromised and booster doses.** Details on safety, efficacy and more are available in [COVID-19 Vaccines and People with HIV: Frequently Asked Questions](#) and in the [Vaccine Dosing and Schedule section](#) of IDSA's [Real-Time Learning Network](#).

| Primary Series Recommendations for Adults with HIV - Not Immunocompromised (CD4 > 200 and Suppressed on Antiretroviral Therapy) | | |
|---|---------------------|---|
| Population | Vaccine | Recommendation |
| People 16 years and older | Pfizer/ BioNTech | Two-dose series administered 21 days apart Considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after the 2 nd dose |
| People 18 years and older | Moderna | Two-dose series administered 28 days apart Considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after 2 nd dose. |
| People 18 years and older | J&J/Janssen | The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are preferred over the J&J/Janssen vaccine due to the potential risk of a rare but serious blood clotting disorder. One-dose series Women under 50 years should be advised that a rare blood clotting disorder has been associated with the J&J/Janssen vaccine and that other vaccines are available. Considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after one dose. |
| Primary Series Recommendations for Adults with HIV Who Are Immunocompromised (CD4 ≤ 200 or Not Suppressed on Antiretroviral Therapy) See the above recommendations plus an additional dose as recommended below and see notes . | | |
| Population | Vaccine | Recommendation |
| A person (16 years and older) with advanced HIV (CD4 cell count ≤ 200, CD4% < 14) or with untreated HIV who received two doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine | Pfizer/ BioNTech | Should receive a third dose of Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine at least 28 days after their second dose |
| A person (18 years and older) with advanced HIV (CD4 cell count ≤ 200, CD4% < 14) or with untreated HIV who received two doses of Moderna vaccine | Moderna | Should receive a third dose of Moderna vaccine at least 28 days after their second dose The third dose should also be a full (100 micrograms) dose. |
| A person (18 years and older) with advanced HIV (CD4 cell count ≤ 200, CD4% < 14) or with untreated HIV who received a single dose of the J&J/Janssen vaccine | J&J/Janssen | See Booster Dose recommendations. Additional supplemental doses are not currently recommended with the J&J/Janssen vaccine. |

Notes:

- 1 See CDC’s [Interim Considerations Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the U.S.](#) and [COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People](#)
- 2 The mixing and matching of vaccine doses **is not** recommended at this time for supplemental doses.
- 3 Persons should be evaluated based on their immune status at the time of vaccination in consideration of a supplemental dose. For example, persons who were not on antiretroviral therapy or had CD4 < 200 during their primary series but no longer meet those definitions should still be considered at risk for suboptimal vaccine response and offered a supplemental dose.
- 4 A booster dose is recommended for everyone 18 years and older who received the J&J/Janssen vaccine 2 months after the initial dose.

| Booster Doses, Including for People with HIV | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Population | Primary Series Vaccine | Recommendation |
| A person between 12 and 17 years | Pfizer/BioNTech | Should receive a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at least 5 months after their primary series (two doses for a person with controlled HIV and three doses for a person with advanced or untreated HIV) |
| A person 18 years and older | Pfizer/BioNTech | Should receive a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine at least 5 months after their primary series (two doses for a person with controlled HIV and three doses for a person with advanced or untreated HIV) A booster dose with the Moderna vaccine should be a half (50 microgram) dose. |
| A person 18 years and older | Moderna | Should receive a booster dose of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine at least 5 months after their primary series (two doses for a person with controlled HIV and three doses for a person with advanced or untreated HIV) A booster dose with the Moderna vaccine should be a half (50 microgram) dose. |
| A person 18 years and older | J&J/Janssen | Should receive a second vaccine dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine at least 2 months after their first dose. A booster dose with the Moderna vaccine should be a half (50 microgram) dose. |

Source: CDC. [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots](#).

| Children & People Who Are Pregnant or Lactating, Including Those with HIV | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Population | Primary Series Vaccine | Recommendation |
| Children 4 years and younger | N/A | No vaccines are authorized for children 4 years and under at this time. |

| Population | Primary Series Vaccine | Recommendation |
|---|------------------------|---|
| Children and adolescents with HIV between the ages of 12 and 16 years | Pfizer/BioNTech | Two dose series administered 21 days apart Same dose as adults Those with advanced HIV (CD4 cell count \leq 200, CD4% < 14) or with untreated HIV should receive a third dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine 28 days after the second dose. |
| Pregnant & lactating people with HIV | Pfizer/BioNTech | Two dose series administered 21 days apart |
| Pregnant & lactating people with HIV | Moderna | Two dose series administered 28 days apart |
| Pregnant & lactating people with HIV | J&J/Janssen | The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are preferred over the J&J/Janssen vaccine due to the potential risk of a rare but serious blood clotting disorder. One-dose series |

Sources:

CDC. [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens.](#)

AAP. [COVID-19 Vaccines in Children and Adolescents.](#)

CDC. [COVID-19 Vaccines While Pregnant or Breastfeeding.](#)

ACOG. [COVID-19 Vaccination Considerations for Obstetric-Gynecologic Care.](#)