

THE IMPORTANCE OF BOOSTER SHOTS

Keeping SNF and long-term care staff and residents safe

Skilled nursing facilities (SNF) and long-term care facilities (LTCF) care for many of our most vulnerable. They have and continue to experience the hardest impacts of COVID.

We urge staff and residents to get the booster shot to protect their communities.

Why are booster shots important?

Booster shots provide a boost in protection. Along with the primary shots, they are our best defense against COVID. Protection from the initial COVID-19 shots may decrease over time. The booster shot helps extend the vaccine's effectiveness.

Who should get a booster shot?

The CDC recommends that all people 12 and older should get a booster:

- 5 months after second dose of Moderna or Pfizer
- 2 months after initial dose of Janssen

Please visit www.cdc.gov for the latest guidelines.

Are booster shots effective against Omicron?

Yes, booster shots are effective against Omicron

- Data from South Africa and the UK show that a booster shot provides 70-75% protection against symptomatic Omicron infection
- Pfizer and Moderna found that the booster shot helps you fight COVID, including the Omicron variant

Should I get a booster shot if I already had COVID?

Yes, you should still get a booster shot even if you had COVID. Your last infection may not protect you from the Omicron variant.



COVID-FS-HCIB-EN

Does the need for a booster shot mean the vaccine is not working?

No, COVID-19 vaccines are working and very effective. They continue to protect against severe COVID infection. However, protection becomes weaker over time.

The Omicron variant makes it increasingly important that booster shots are used to maximize protection. Additionally, COVID booster shots are more important for older adults because in many cases they have a weaker immune response.

Should I receive the same COVID vaccine brand as my initial COVID vaccine(s)?

You may receive any FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine regardless of the brand of vaccine you initially received.