# Booster Dose vs. Additional Dose

What's the Difference?

Vaccines are the best protection against severe illness, hospitalization, and death due to COVID-19. Booster doses and additional doses are important and it's helpful to know the difference.

## Booster Dose

**Why is it important?**
Given when the immune response to initial vaccination might have decreased over time

**Who is eligible?**
All people **ages 16 and older**.

**When can it be given?**
- **6 months** after the two-dose series of Pfizer or Moderna
- **2 months** after Johnson & Johnson

*People ages 18+ may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster. Only Pfizer is approved for 16 and 17-year-olds.*

## Additional Dose

**Why is it important?**
Given to those with weakened immune systems who have not responded fully to initial doses

**Who is eligible?**
Individuals who have completed the **Pfizer or Moderna two-dose vaccine series** AND are **moderately or severely immune compromised**.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is not approved as an additional dose.

**Conditions and treatments include:**
- Active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Solid organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids

**When can it be given?**
- **28 days** after the two-dose series of Pfizer or Moderna

Talk to your doctor to see if getting an additional dose is right for you.

For more information, visit: [covid19.ca.gov/vaccines](https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines)