

## Patient COVID-19 Vaccine Booster FAQ

### Who is eligible for a booster shot of the Pfizer series?

- 65+ years and older
- 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- 18+ who work in high-risk settings
- 18+ who live in high-risk settings

### Can I receive a booster shot if I received the Moderna vaccine?

Yes, but only if you are immunocompromised.

None immunocompromised individuals will need to wait until full FDA/CDC approval.

### Can I receive a booster shot if I received the Johnson and Johnson vaccine?

No, the FDA has not approved Johnson and Johnson booster shots for healthcare workers yet. We will update you when this changes.

### Can I receive the influenza vaccine on the same day as the Pfizer booster vaccine?

Yes! The CDC has updated their guidance on the timing of the COVID-19 vaccine. You no longer need to space out the COVID-19 vaccine from other vaccines. You can get more than one vaccination at the same time.

### Will additional booster shots be needed every year?

We don't know the frequency with which booster shots will be necessary. We will update you as we obtain more information.

### Do I need to wear a mask after receiving a Pfizer booster shot?

Yes, we require all employees to wear a mask when indoors at Denver Health due to the continued high levels of COVID-19 in the community.

### How much additional benefit does the Pfizer booster shot provide to me?

In a large nationwide study, a third dose of the Pfizer vaccine given at least 5 months after completion of the initial two dose series resulted in an 11-fold decreased risk in developing confirmed COVID-19

infection 12 days or more after the booster compared to vaccinated persons who did not get the booster in person age 60 or older. In this same study the rate of developing severe COVID-19 was reduced 20-fold with boosters.<sup>1</sup> A smaller study showed a 5-fold increase in effective antibody levels after a booster dose in persons age 18-55.<sup>2</sup> The increase in effective antibody levels was even higher for those over age 65.

### **How long do I need to be monitored after my booster vaccine?**

A period of monitoring is recommended after all vaccines, however, persons who have had their initial COVID-19 vaccination series without a serious reaction (rash, hives, swelling or trouble breathing) are not required to stay in the vaccination area after the booster.

### **Should I expect even worse side effects after the booster shot?**

While everyone is different and it is impossible to predict for the individual, in a small study<sup>2</sup> of a third Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine given about 8 months after the initial series, rates of adverse events were similar, but not worse, than those seen after the second shot.