

# UPDATE OF THE WHO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VACCINATION AGAINST COVID-19

COVID-19  
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#EACHVACCINECOUNTS

On 28 September 2023, the WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on immunizations updated its Roadmap for vaccination against COVID-19.

## PRIMARY SERIES

After four years of pandemic, most people in the world have some immunity against the SARS-CoV-2 virus through infection, vaccination or both. At this stage of the pandemic, the benefits of a 2-dose primary vaccination series have become limited.

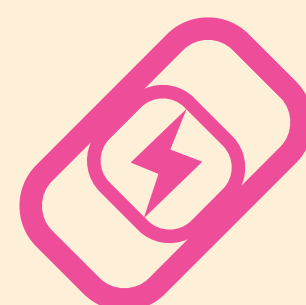
**Countries can reduce their morbidity and mortality rates by ensuring that all persons receive at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine.**



## BOOSTER DOSES

People in the high priority groups have the highest chance of becoming seriously ill or dying. Any decrease in vaccine effectiveness, however small, increases the number of persons who experience severe illness or death. Therefore, **revaccination with booster doses is recommended only for persons in the high priority groups.**

Below you can see for whom, when and how many doses are recommended for different groups of people.



### HIGH PRIORITY GROUPS



Should receive one additional booster dose 6 months after the last dose:

- Oldest adults (aged 75 years or older).
- Older adults with comorbidities (60 to 75 years old).
- Pregnant persons.

Should receive one additional booster dose 12 months after the last dose:

- Older adults (60 to 75 years).
- Adults with comorbidities or severe obesity (18 to 59 years old).
- First-line healthcare workers.

### MEDIUM PRIORITY GROUPS



Additional booster doses are **not recommended for:**

- Healthy adults (persons older than 17 years)
- Children and adolescents with comorbidities (6 months to 17 years)

### LOW PRIORITY GROUPS



Additional booster doses are **not recommended for:**

- Healthy children and adolescents

## IMMUNOCOMPROMISED PERSONS

Persons aged 6 months or older with compromised immune systems are included in the high priority risk group.

SAGE recommends that immunocompromised persons should continue to receive a primary series of 2-3 doses against COVID-19, in consultation with a healthcare provider. Also, they should receive one additional booster dose 6 months after the last dose.



## NEXT STEPS

- Countries should maintain their focus on achieving high vaccination coverage rates among high priority risk groups. This includes older adults, pregnant women, persons with comorbidities, immunocompromised persons and health workers.
- At this time, countries should use any COVID-19 vaccine with EUL approval to vaccinate the population – since all protect against severe disease and death. Do not pause vaccination operations while waiting for the new monovalent XBB.1.5 vaccine to become available.



More information:  
[www.paho.org/en/covid-19-vaccines](http://www.paho.org/en/covid-19-vaccines)

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