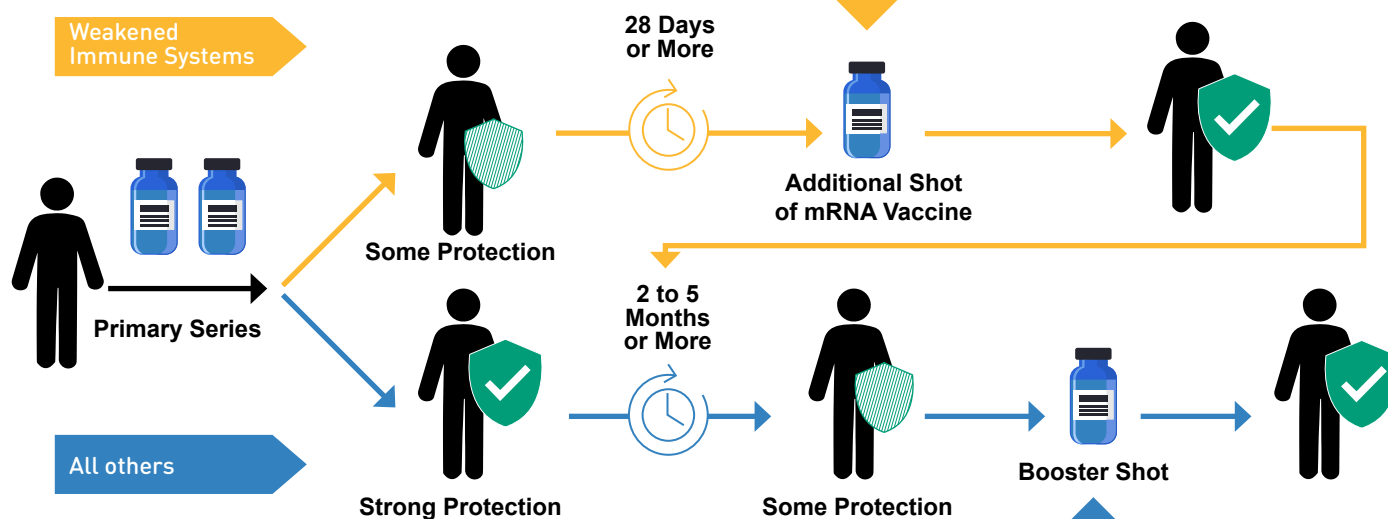


# Why do we have additional shots and booster shots for COVID-19 vaccines? Are they the same?

Primary series, additional shots, and booster shots all use the same vaccines. They have different names to help you know who needs another shot, why, and when.

An **additional shot** is only meant for people with a weakened immune system. These people may not get the vaccine's strong protection from just two shots. They need an "additional shot" to jumpstart their bodies' defenses.



All people 12 years old and older should get a **booster shot** when they can. The vaccines' strong protection against the COVID-19 virus weakens over time. A booster shot can "boost" your immune system for better, longer lasting defense.

## People with weakened immune systems who get the

- ✓ **Pfizer vaccine and are age 5+** should get an additional shot of the Pfizer vaccine 28 days after they take the second dose.
- ✓ **Moderna vaccine and are age 18+** should get an additional shot of the Moderna vaccine 28 days after they take the second dose.
- ✓ **J&J vaccine and are age 18+** should get an additional shot of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine 28 days after their first J&J shot.

## Everyone ages 12 and older should get a booster shot.

- ✓ **For Pfizer:** 5 months after the second shot or 3 months after the additional shot
- ✓ **For Moderna:** 5 months after the second shot or 3 months after the additional shot
- ✓ **For J&J:** 2 months after the first shot or 2 months after the additional shot

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]

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Americares is a health-focused relief and development organization that responds to people affected by poverty or disaster with life-changing health programs, medicine, medical supplies and emergency aid.

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