Atrium Health

Who should get a **COVID-19 vaccine booster?**

Everyone ages 12 and older should get a booster shot of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Wondering when to get it? See the chart below.

Who can get a booster?	When to get a booster?
Everyone ages 12+	5 months after your last dose
Everyone ages 18+	5 months after your last dose
Everyone ages 18+	2 months after your single dose
	Everyone ages 12+ Everyone ages 18+

What's the difference between a third dose and a booster?

While there's been confusion, a "third dose" and a "booster" are not the same thing. In fact, some people should get both. Review the chart below for a breakdown of some of the differences.

	Third dose	Booster
What is it?	A third dose of Pfizer or Moderna for people who don't have a strong enough immune response to 2 doses	An extra vaccine dose that helps "boost" immunity months after your original vaccination
Who can get it?	Only people ages 5+ who received 2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna and have a moderately to severely compromised immune system	Everyone ages 12+ who received 2 to 3 doses of Pfizer and everyone 18+ who received one dose of Johnson & Johnson or 2 to 3 doses of Moderna
Why is it needed?	For immunocompromised people, a third dose may improve the immune response	To make the vaccine more effective for a longer period of time
When is it given?	At least 28 days after your second dose	See the chart above

Ask your doctor if a third dose is right for you.

Ready to get your booster? Please bring your vaccine card and wear a mask!