

Vaccine and Booster Guidance for People Vaccinated Against COVID-19 Outside of the United States

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This guide is for people who have received one or more COVID-19 vaccinations outside of the U.S.

For the best protection, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone stay “up to date” with COVID-19 vaccines, including people who received a COVID-19 vaccine outside of the United States. A person is up to date with their COVID-19 vaccination when they have received all doses in the primary series, plus the recommended booster, when eligible.

1. Is the vaccine you received abroad accepted in the United States?

The CDC accepts the following vaccines from other countries (listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization). If the vaccine you received abroad is not on the following list, CDC recommends that you start your COVID-19 vaccination over with a COVID-19 vaccine authorized or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).* (Note: Before receiving an FDA-authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine, wait at least 28 days after receiving your last dose of the non-FDA-authorized or approved vaccine.)

- Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty) (2-dose primary series, 3-dose for kids ages 6 months to 4)
- Moderna (Spikevax) (2-dose primary series)
- Johnson & Johnson/Janssen (1-dose primary)
- Novavax (Covovax/Nuvaxovid) (2-dose primary series)
- Sinopharm (BIBP) (2-dose primary series)
- Bharat Biotech (Covaxin) (2-dose primary series)
- AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria and Covishield) (2-dose primary series)
- Sinovac (CoronaVac) (2-dose primary series)
- CanSino (Convidecia) (1-dose primary series)

2. Did you complete the primary series abroad?

Completing a primary series means receiving all primary series doses (one, two, or three, depending on the vaccine; see above). CDC does not recommend mixing different COVID-19 vaccines for the primary series but is aware that this is increasingly common in many countries outside of the United States. Therefore, for the interpretation of vaccination records, people who received a mixed primary series have completed the primary series.

3. What should you do next in the United States?

If you completed the primary series abroad with a CDC-accepted vaccine but have not received any boosters	If you didn't complete the primary series abroad	If you received any CDC-accepted booster doses abroad
<ul style="list-style-type: none">If you are 5 years of age or older, get a bivalent booster dose* (updated vaccine formula) at least 2 months after your most recent vaccine dose. 5-year-old children are only eligible to receive Pfizer. People ages 6 and up may receive Moderna or Pfizer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If you were vaccinated outside of the U.S. with a CDC-accepted vaccine and have not completed the primary series, you do not have to start the primary series over.You should get one primary-series dose of a monovalent (original vaccine formula) mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna).If the first dose received abroad was an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, it is best to get the same brand of vaccine again to complete the primary series.You should also receive the recommended bivalent booster when eligible. *	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If you are at least 5 years of age and did not receive a bivalent booster dose* (updated vaccine formula), get one at least 2 months after your most recent booster dose abroad. 5-year-old children are only eligible to receive Pfizer. People ages 6 and up may receive Moderna or Pfizer.

4. Are you immunocompromised?

People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and received CDC-accepted COVID-19 vaccines not available in the U.S. should either complete the recommended COVID-19 vaccine series in the United States. This includes getting an updated Pfizer or Moderna bivalent booster at least two months after your most recent dose of any COVID-19 vaccine.



Scan the QR code above to be redirected to the COVID-19 vaccine eligibility schedule.

* See OHA's COVID-19 vaccine eligibility schedule

Note: The only vaccines approved or authorized by the FDA in the U.S. are Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson and Novavax. The CDC's [COVID-19 Vaccines page](#) is available in multiple languages and provides details on how to stay "up to date" on your vaccinations if you have been vaccinated outside the U.S.

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact the COVID-19 Communications Unit at 1-971-673-2411, 711 TTY or COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhsosha.state.or.us