

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

The World Health Organization updated its recommendations on vaccination against COVID-19.

The updates are based on evidence emerging from the:

- Ongoing monitoring of the disease.
- Protection that the population already developed against COVID-19 through previous infection or vaccination.
- Epidemiological situation, availability of diagnostic tests and access to therapeutic options.

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

## HIGH PRIORITY GROUP

People in this group have the highest risk of becoming seriously ill or dying. Any decrease in vaccine effectiveness, however small, increases the number of cases who experience severe illness or death. **Therefore, they should be vaccinated with the primary series and one booster dose.**

In addition, they:

- Should receive **one additional booster dose 6 months after** the last dose:
  - a. Oldest adults (aged 75 years or older).<sup>1</sup>
  - b. Older adults with comorbidities (60 to 75 years old).<sup>2</sup>
  - c. Persons aged 6 months or older with compromised immune systems.<sup>2,3</sup>
  - d. Pregnant persons.<sup>4</sup>
- Should **receive one additional booster dose 12 months after** the last dose:
  - e. Older adults (60 to 75 years).<sup>1</sup>
  - f. Adults with comorbidities or severe obesity (18 to 59 years old).
  - g. First-line healthcare workers.



## MEDIUM PRIORITY GROUP

People in this group have a low risk of becoming seriously ill, needing hospitalization, or dying. In addition, when vaccinated, they have the highest level of protection against serious illness and death and if they contract the virus, and the illness is usually mild or asymptomatic.

**Should be vaccinated with the primary series and one booster dose:**

- All healthy persons older than 17 years.
- Children and adolescents from 6 months to 17 years with comorbidities that increase their risk of severe disease.

**Additional booster doses are not recommended.**



## LOW PRIORITY GROUP

COVID-19 disease is rarely lethal in healthy children and adolescents with **NO COMORBIDITIES**.

Healthy children and adolescents between 6 months and 17 years should be vaccinated with the primary series and with one booster dose according to the country context.

**Additional booster doses are not recommended.**



<sup>1</sup> Depending on the definition established in each country.

<sup>2</sup> Vaccine effectiveness is lower in persons with compromised immune systems. Personal protective measures, vaccination of close contacts and early treatment in case of infection are still recommended.

<sup>3</sup> The 6-month interval should be discussed with the individual's health care provider.

<sup>4</sup> This subgroup should receive a dose during pregnancy if their last dose was 6 months ago.