

What is the current evidence and recommendations regarding COVID-19 vaccine booster shots (exceeding 2 doses) for the general population?

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Key Findings:

Emerging evidence suggesting waning levels of immune markers with time, particularly against more virulent variants. How this will correlate to functional immunity is yet to be documented.

Immunocompromised populations with lower levels of responses to standard 2-dose regimens may benefit from a 3rd dose of mRNA vaccine as a part of the primary series, though their response may still be lower than what is expected in the general population

Current recommendation for populations to receive a 3rd dose include adults over a certain age (depending on jurisdiction), those living in long-term care settings, frontline health and social workers and/or people working in high risk settings, those with immune compromising conditions leading to increased risk of severe disease/poor outcomes if infected

Safety trials have indicated that side effects to 3rd/booster doses are similar to those following the 2nd dose in initial vaccination series

Category: Clinical Management
Infection Prevention and Control

Subject: Decision Making
Health Planning
Infection Prevention and Control
Vaccination

Population: All

Clinical Setting: Community
Public Health

Priority Level: Level 3 Two weeks (14 days)

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