



Leadership Council
of Aging Organizations

The Leadership Council of Aging Organization (LCAO) Statement in Support of COVID-19 Booster Shots for Older Adults and Those Who Care for Them

Due to concerns about the most recent COVID-19 variant, Omicron, and the ongoing proliferation of the Delta variant, our coalition of national nonprofit organizations concerned with the well-being of America's older people urges all fully vaccinated older adults, and the paid and unpaid people who care for them, to receive a booster shot of one of the three available COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S. If older adults are not yet fully vaccinated, we urge them to protect themselves with COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccination remains the best tool to reduce the spread of the virus and severe disease.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which expanded eligibility for booster shots of COVID-19 vaccines for millions of Americans in certain populations on October 21, [87.3% of people over age 65 are fully vaccinated](#). The CDC COVID Data tracker counts people as being "fully vaccinated" if they received both doses of the two-dose mRNA series or one dose of a single-dose vaccine. As of December 12th, [only 52.9 % of adults age 65 and older are benefiting from additional protection of a booster dose](#).

[Recent CDC COVID-19 vaccine booster data](#) suggest vaccination becomes less effective in preventing infection or milder illness with symptoms over time—especially in people age 65 and older. That's why we urge anyone in that group and those who care for them to get a booster as soon as possible.

LCAO's position on booster shots reflects the ethical obligation of providers to deliver safe, quality care to the older adults and others they serve, and the most recent scientific evidence available. Critical factors include:

- COVID-19 vaccines are safe.
- COVID-19 vaccines are effective for preventing infection, and especially severe illness and death.
- COVID-19 vaccines reduce the risk of spreading the virus.
- COVID-19 vaccines, like all vaccines, are not 100% effective, so breakthrough infections can happen.
- Getting the COVID-19 vaccine and boosters is especially critical for older adults, communities of color, and those with co-morbidities who are at greater risk of severe illness or death from a COVID infection.

Long-term care providers have taken the lead in increasing vaccine access. We encourage aging service providers to hold booster clinics, and to reach out to the CDC INFO line at 800-232-4636 to be matched with a vaccine provider or to call [state and territorial health departments](#) for additional of support.

Visit these helpful resources to find additional information on booster shots:



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- CDC: [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots](#)
- CDC: [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- We Can Do This: [Additional Resources About COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters](#)
- Vaccines.gov: [Find a COVID-19 Vaccine Near You](#)

Who We Are

The Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) is a coalition of national nonprofit organizations concerned with the well-being of America's older population and committed to representing their interests in the policy-making arena.