

COVID-19 vaccination Information on the booster shot (fourth dose)

4



Vaccination is
free of charge

Covered by
public funds

The fourth dose of the vaccine is now available.
Getting a fourth dose of the vaccine is highly effective
in preventing severe illness.



Eligibility for fourth dose

Based on the scientific knowledge available at present, the fourth dose of the vaccine will commence being administered to the following people by the end of May:

- People for whom 5 months have passed since receiving their third dose of the vaccine, who are either:

(1) Aged 60 years
and over

(2) Aged 18 and over with an underlying
medical condition or;

Deemed by their doctor to be at high risk of serious
illness



* About underlying medical
conditions (Japanese only)

*If you fall under (1), please bring the vaccination voucher mailed to you by your local municipality to the vaccination site.

* If you are unsure whether you fall under (2)

If you are visiting a medical facility due to an underlying medical condition, etc., or if you have a medical facility where you can receive a medical consultation in advance, please consult a doctor at that facility. If you do not have a medical facility where you can receive a medical consultation in advance, please consult the doctor during the preliminary examination at the vaccination site. For information on how vaccination vouchers are distributed, please check the information sent to you by your local municipality.

Inoculations with the fourth dose for people other than those in (1) and (2)
will be considered as more information is gathered.

Vaccine used

Regardless of the type of vaccine used for the first three vaccination shots,
vaccines from Pfizer or Takeda/Moderna will be used.

Effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine

- Overseas studies have reported that a fourth dose of Pfizer's vaccine administered to persons aged 60 years or older, four months or more after the third dose, maintained its efficacy in preventing severe illness six weeks after vaccination during the period of the Omicron variant.

Source: Bar-On YM et al. Protection by a Fourth Dose of BNT162b2 against Omicron in Israel. NEJM. 2022.

Safety of the COVID-19 vaccine

- Studies overseas have reported no serious adverse reactions up to 21 days after the fourth dose.
 Symptoms presented by day 21 after vaccination in people aged 18 years and older

Over 50%	Throbbing pain 78.8%
10 - 50%	Fatigue 33.2%, Muscle aches 24.5%, Headache 21.5%, Induration/swelling 12.0%
1 - 10%	Joint pain 8.4%, Fever over 37.5° C 6.6%, Swollen lymph nodes 4.7%, Red spots/redness 8.0%, Sensory disturbance 1.5%, Allergic reaction 1.0%

(*) Subjects: 274 (Pfizer: 154; Moderna: 120)

Source: Gili Regev-Yochay et al. Efficacy of a Fourth Dose of Covid-19 mRNA Vaccine against Omicron. NEJM. 2022.

⦿ Vaccinations outside of your area of residence (registered address)

- If you are receiving the vaccine at a medical institution or similar facility while hospitalized or resident at a facility → **Please consult with the medical institution.**
- If you are receiving the vaccine at a medical institution where you are being treated for an underlying medical condition → **Please consult with the medical institution.**
- If your residence is different from your registered address → **You may be able to receive the vaccine in the area where you actually live.**

Please check the website of the municipality where you actually live or contact its consulting service.

⦿ Your consent is required to receive the vaccine.

Before receiving the vaccine, please make sure that you have a correct understanding of both the efficacy of the vaccine in preventing infectious diseases and the risk of an adverse reaction, and then decide whether or not to be vaccinated at your own discretion. Vaccinations will not be administered without the consent of the recipient.

Vaccinations must not be forced on anyone in the workplace or others around you, nor should unvaccinated persons be discriminated against.

⦿ In the event that you suffer injury to your health due to vaccination, a relief system is available.

Vaccinations can cause health problems (including illness or disability). Although this is extremely rare, the risk cannot be eliminated, and a relief system has been established for this reason.

Please consult with the municipality where you reside for details about the application process.

**After receiving the vaccine,
please continue to take measures to prevent COVID-19 infection, such as wearing a mask.**

COVID-19 vaccines have been shown to be highly effective in preventing the onset of COVID-19, but they are not 100% effective. Also, mutations of the virus can also have an impact.

For this reason, we ask that everyone continue to take measures to prevent infection. Specifically, please avoid the "three Cs" (crowded places, close contact settings, and closed spaces), wear a mask, wash your hands with soap, disinfect your hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and so on.

Please continue to take preventive measures against infection.



Crowded places



Close contact settings
Avoid the "three Cs"



Closed space

(crowded places, close contact settings, closed spaces)



Wear a mask



Wash hands with soap



Disinfect hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer

If you are unable to view the website, please contact your local municipality.

For more information on the efficacy and safety of COVID-19 vaccines, please refer to the "COVID-19 Vaccines" page on the website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW).

MHLW COVID-19 vaccine Search

