



The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School

5 Things to Know About the COVID-19 Booster Shot

AUSTIN, TX — Millions of Americans who received the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine are now eligible for a booster shot after a long and sometimes confusing federal approval process. Determining whether or not you should roll up your sleeve for an additional dose depends on a handful of factors.

#1: Not Everyone Is Eligible—Yet

“This booster is only approved for people who have already received the Pfizer vaccine,” says Melamed, an assistant professor of neurology at Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin. “And if you’re at least six months out from your last dose, you’re eligible for a third shot— as long as you fall into one of three high risk groups.”

According to the CDC, that includes people ages 65 or older or residents of long-term care facilities. Also eligible: Adults with underlying health conditions that put them at severe risk of COVID, such as obesity, chronic kidney disease, diabetes and autoimmune conditions. The third group includes health care workers, teachers and others at high risk of exposure to the virus at their workplace.

#2: Don’t Mix and Match

“If you got the Moderna or Johnson and Johnson vaccine, we’re still awaiting guidance on booster recommendations by the FDA,” says Melamed. “The agency hopes to make booster recommendations for those vaccines in the coming weeks.”

#3: Boosters Are Widely Available

Pharmacies, doctors’ offices and mass vaccination sites will dispense boosters the same way as they administered the first and second doses.

Just like your original doses, boosters are free for everyone, regardless of immigration status. No ID or insurance is required.

#4: Boosters Maintain Protection Against COVID-19

The CDC says protection provided by COVID-19 vaccines appears to wane over time, especially for people 65 and older, Melamed says. There’s also evidence of waning effectiveness against the Delta variant.

Pfizer studies suggest that booster shots bring people’s antibodies back up to levels comparable to post-second dose level, although not everyone will have the same antibody response.

#5: Boosters Are Safe

Melamed says the side effect profile of booster vaccines is similar to the first two Pfizer shots, including injection site reaction, fatigue, headache and fever. The main side effect that appears to be increased in some booster shot recipients is lymph node swelling.

“One last note: If you’re in the 18-49 age group and at lower risk for severe illness from COVID, you might consider waiting to get a booster shot,” says Melamed. “We’re expecting new, larger studies that will tell us more about the booster’s impact on the Delta variant and provide more information on mixing and matching the Pfizer vaccine with other available vaccines.”

If you have any questions about your eligibility contact your health provider, or check the CDC website.

Mayor Adler acknowledges limitations in ACL Fest COVID-19 protocols

by: **Jaelyn Ramkissoon** | KXAN/NBC

(AUSTIN, TX) - To get into the festival, attendees had to show proof of full vaccination or proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of the festival. Festival organizers reported on day one of the event (Friday) Eight-six percent of festival-goers came prepared with proof of vaccination; 14% came with proof of a negative COVID-19 test; and less than 1% of attendees were turned away Friday for not having proper documentation.

“I thought that it was good that on the first day 86% of the people were committed and demonstrated that they had a vaccination,” Austin Mayor Steve Adler said of the COVID-19 protocols in an interview with KXAN Tuesday. He continued on and said about 1,000 people were turned away for not having documentation.

Some festival-goers were skeptical of the numbers reported by ACL, saying barely anyone’s health papers were checked going into the festival.

“These numbers are totally fabricated. The floodgates were open, and no one was giving any document more than a momentary



glance. There is no chance that this is correct,” one user wrote on Twitter.

“I didn’t see anyone getting checked whatsoever. We got there in the afternoon. Was pretty disappointed to see that, tbh,” another person wrote.

Adler acknowledged checking everyone’s health documentation wasn’t going to be 100%.

“It’s not going to be a perfect system, but you take that into account when you’re deciding whether or not to open up an event like this, because you know there are going to be limitations,” Adler said.

That includes limitations on getting people to wear face coverings. Masks were only required in parts of Zilker Park where it was difficult to maintain social distancing, including on festival shuttles, entrance lines, areas close to the stages and in some limited indoor ar-

reas, according to ACL Fest’s safety measures.

Adler said “in reality, very few” people wore masks. However, he said it’s about weighing the risks for a large event, and the weekend played out as anticipated.

“At the end of the day, you’re being realistic, you’re not creating unrealistic expectations for how thorough or how complete anything will be done, but you’re trying to balance both the risks as well as the need for the city to be able to move forward,” Adler said.

He said another risk, in addition to the coronavirus, this fall is the flu.

“Two years ago, our ICUs filled up just with flu patients. We need to make sure that doesn’t happen,” Adler said. He encouraged everyone to get their flu shot to help keep the strain off local hospitals, in addition to getting their COVID-19 vaccine.

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TEXAS LONGHORNS

2021 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Record: 4 - 1

vs (23) Louisiana Lafayette - **W 38-18**
@ Arkansas - **L 40 - 21**
vs Rice - **W 51- 0**
vs Texas Tech - **W 70 - 35**
@ TCU - **W 32 - 27**

^Sat, Oct 9 vs (6) Oklahoma
***Sat, Oct 16 vs Okla. St.**
Bye Week
Sat, Oct 30 @ Baylor
Sat, Nov 6 @ Iowa St.
***Sat, Nov 13 vs Kansas**
Sat, Nov 20 @ West Virginia
***Fri, Nov 26 vs Kansas St.**

* Home | ^ Dallas | @ Road Game

AP Top 25 Poll

- Alabama (5-0)
- Georgia (5-0)
- Iowa (5-0)
- Penn State (5-0)
- Cincinnati (4-0)
- Oklahoma (5-0)
- Ohio State (4-1)
- Oregon (4-1)
- Michigan (5-0)
- Brigham Young (5-0)
- Michigan State (5-0)
- Oklahoma St (5-0)
- Arkansas (4-1)
- Notre Dame (4-1)
- Coastal Carolina (5-0)
- Kentucky (5-0)
- Ole Miss (3-1)
- Auburn (4-1)
- Wake Forest (5-0)
- Florida (3-2)
- 21 Texas (4-1)**
- Arizona St. (4-1)
- North Carolina St (4-1)
- SMU (5-0)
- San Diego St. (4-0)

Saturday, Oct 9, 11:00 AM CDT on ABC
Cotton Bowl | Dallas, TX

#21 @ #6

Texas (4-1) OU (5-0)