



COVID 19 Vaccine and Booster Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Dana-Farber mandating the COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster?

At Dana-Farber, we know better than most just how dangerous this pandemic is for patients facing cancer. Even as cases fall, our patients remain vulnerable to severe infection, including our youngest patients who are not yet vaccine eligible.

Our patients and their families are counting on us to keep them safe. And as colleagues, we depend on each other to ensure a safe working environment. Being fully vaccinated, including the Booster, is the best way to protect yourself, our patients, and each other.

How do we know the vaccine is safe?

Hundreds of millions of people around the world have safely received the COVID-19 vaccine. The benefits far outweigh the risks of not getting vaccinated. COVID-19 can cause serious illness and death even in young, healthy people. Many individuals have long-lasting symptoms after infection.

I was vaccinated already in my community; how do I show proof of my COVID-19 vaccination?

New hires who have been already vaccinated should bring their documentation to their new hire health screening. Occupational Health will review it with you at that time.

Can I get the vaccine Booster through Dana-Farber?

There is limited vaccine availability at Dana Farber. We encourage you to get the vaccine booster in your community where it is very accessible. Below are some helpful resources: [Vaccines.org](https://www.vaccines.org), [Vaxfinder.mass.gov](https://www.vaxfinder.mass.gov), [Vaccines.nh.gov](https://www.vaccines.nh.gov)

If I decline the vaccination or booster, can I still work at Dana Farber?

No, this is an Institute policy and there will be no exceptions outside of qualifying medical or religious exemptions.

When can I start my new job at Dana Farber?

Once you meet all the immunization and screening requirements, including 2 of the Pfizer or Moderna, or 1 of the J & J, Covid vaccines and the Covid-19 BOOSTER, if eligible, Occupational Health will clear you to start your new job.

What are the details for a qualifying medical or religious exemption?

Requests for qualifying medical or religious exemptions will be reviewed during the new hire health screening process. Requests for a medical exemption will be reviewed by Occupational Health. Requests for a religious exemption will be reviewed by HR.

Which vaccine is being administered at Dana-Farber?

We are administering the vaccines from Pfizer/BioNTech. We are working closely with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) to determine doses and distribution. Visit the [CDC](#) to learn more about the different vaccines.

How many doses/vaccinations will I need? And if more than one, how far apart?

Both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines require two doses of the vaccine. Depending on the vaccine administered, you will need to schedule a second appointment either 21 or 28 days from your initial vaccination. The Booster is recommended 5 months after completing the mRNA Pfizer or Moderna series. If you received the Johnson and Johnson vaccine you are eligible for a booster after 2 months of receiving the vaccine.

What happens if I only get one dose?

In order to best be protected, and to comply with Dana Farber policy, you must have both vaccines and the Booster.

Is there a cost?

No. There is no cost to the Dana-Farber workforce.

How long does it take for immunity to occur?

The vaccine will provide maximum immunity about 2 weeks after the second dose. Only partial immunity is achieved after the first dose. That is why it is essential to get both doses. The COVID-19 boosters help broaden and strengthen protection against Omicron and other SARS-CoV-2 variants.