



# Health Alert



City of Chicago  
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## Older Adults Can Now Receive an Additional Dose of Updated COVID-19 Vaccine

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### Summary and Action Items

- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that persons  $\geq 65$  years of age should receive an additional dose of the updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine.
- The additional dose is to be administered at least 4 months following the initial dose of the updated 2023–2024 COVID-19 vaccine, which was initially released in Fall of 2023.
- This recommendation is based on evidence that older adults are at increased risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death if they get COVID-19, therefore additional protection is warranted.

### BACKGROUND

[The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Director Mandy Cohen](#) endorsed the [CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' \(ACIP\) recommendation](#) for adults ages 65 years and older to receive an additional updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine dose. The recommendation acknowledges the increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19 in older adults.

[The CDC details](#) that data continues to show the importance of vaccination to protect those most at risk for severe outcomes of COVID-19. An additional dose of the updated COVID-19 vaccine may restore protection that has waned since a fall vaccine dose, providing increased protection to adults ages 65 years and older. Adults 65 years and older are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, with more than half of COVID-19 hospitalizations in the USA during October 2023 to December 2023 occurring in this age group. [Local epidemiology of COVID-19 in Chicago](#) is consistent with national trends, demonstrating high risk of severe COVID-19 disease in older Chicagoans.

The percent of Chicago seniors who are up to date with an initial dose of the 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine is low at 31.8% among those 65-74 years of age and 36.0% among those 75 years of age and older. Disparities in coverage by race-ethnicity continue to persist (Figure 1). Healthcare providers should use all opportunities to recommend vaccination to their patients who have not received the updated COVID-19 vaccine this season.

Figure 1. Disparities in the percent of Chicago seniors who are up to date with the 2023-24 COVID-19 Vaccine

