

# J&J to ask FDA to approve its COVID booster shot

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(Healthday News)—Johnson & Johnson plans to ask the U.S. Food and

Drug Administration to approve emergency use of a booster shot of its single-dose COVID-19 vaccine early this week.

While the request has yet to be submitted, the FDA on Friday scheduled an Oct. 15 meeting of its expert advisory panel to discuss whether a booster shot of the vaccine should receive emergency use authorization, *The New York Times* reported.

The scheduling of that meeting before Johnson & Johnson has even filed its application with the FDA highlights the Biden administration's concerns that the 15 million Americans who received the company's vaccine require more protection, the *Times* said.

Johnson & Johnson is the last of the three FDA-authorized vaccine providers to seek approval of booster shots, as increasing evidence suggests that [older adults](#) and other high-risk people may need them.

Last month, the FDA authorized a [booster](#) shot for many people who received Pfizer's vaccine and is considering doing the same this month for Americans who received Moderna's vaccine, the *Times* reported.

A recent U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study found that Johnson & Johnson's vaccine was only 71% effective against hospitalization from COVID-19, compared with 88% for Pfizer's vaccine and 93% for Moderna's vaccine. Both are two-dose vaccines.

Johnson & Johnson recipients were also more likely to have breakthrough infections or symptomatic COVID-19 than recipients of the other two vaccines, other research has shown, the *Times* reported.

But a company-funded study of nearly 2 million people found the vaccine was 81 percent effective against hospitalization. And other studies suggest that protection from Johnson & Johnson's vaccine does

not wane over [time](#) like Pfizer's vaccine does, the *Times* said.

Regardless, the company announced last month that a second dose, given two months after the first, increased the [vaccine](#)'s effectiveness against symptomatic COVID-19 by about 22 percentage points, to 94 percent. Johnson & Johnson also said two shots were 100 percent effective against severe disease, although that estimate was less conclusive, the *Times* reported.

**More information:** Visit the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for more on [booster shots](#).

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