

Fourth COVID-19 vaccine dose safe for immunocompromised

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A fourth dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine seems safe for

immunocompromised individuals aged 12 years or older, according to research published in the July 15 issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Anne M. Hause, Ph.D., from the CDC COVID-19 Emergency Response Team, and colleagues characterized the safety of a first [booster](#) dose (dose 4) at least three months after dose 3 and a second booster dose (dose 5) at least four months after dose 4 among immunocompromised persons aged 12 years or older during Jan. 12, 2022, to March 28, 2022. Adverse events and health impact assessments reported to v-safe and the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) were reviewed. During the study period, about 518,113 persons received a fourth dose.

The researchers found that local and systemic reactions were less frequently reported among 4,015 v-safe registrants after the fourth dose compared with after dose 3 of the primary vaccination series. VAERS received 145 reports after fourth doses: 88.3 and 11.7 percent were nonserious and serious, respectively.

"Preliminary safety findings for booster doses among persons with presumed immunocompromise are similar to those among nonimmunocompromised persons; reactions are reported less frequently after booster vaccination than after the last dose of a primary series," the authors write. "It is important that [health care providers](#), immunocompromised persons, and parents of immunocompromised children be advised that local and systemic reactions are expected after a booster dose, and that serious adverse events are rare."

More information: Anne M. Hause et al, Safety Monitoring of COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine First Booster Doses Among Persons Aged ≥ 12 Years with Presumed Immunocompromise Status—United States, January 12, 2022–March 28, 2022, *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (2022). [DOI: 10.15585/mmwr.mm7128a3](https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7128a3)

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