

COVID-19 vaccine booster dose cuts infection in those 60 and older

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(HealthDay)—Among Israeli adults aged 60 years and older, those

receiving a third booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine have rates of confirmed COVID-19 and severe illness that are substantially lower than the rates seen for individuals only receiving the two original vaccine doses, according to a study published online Sept. 15 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Yinon M. Bar-On, from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, and colleagues compared the rate of confirmed COVID-19 cases and the rate of severe [illness](#) (July 30 through Aug. 31, 2021) between those who had received a [booster](#) injection at least 12 days earlier (booster group) and those who had not received a booster injection (nonbooster group). The analysis included 1,137,804 persons ages 60 years and older who had been fully vaccinated at least five months earlier.

The researchers found that ≥ 12 days after the booster dose, the rate of confirmed infection was lower in the booster group than in the nonbooster group by a factor of 11.3. Similarly, the rate of [severe illness](#) was lower by a factor of 19.5. Compared with the rate of infection four to six days after the booster, the rate of confirmed infection ≥ 12 days after vaccination was lower by a factor of 5.4.

"Our findings give clear indications of the effectiveness of a booster dose even against the currently dominant delta variant," the authors write. "Future studies will help determine the long-term effectiveness of the booster dose against current and emerging variants."

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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