

## Frequently Asked Questions

### COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Mandate

**1. Who does the NYS DOH vaccine and booster mandate impact at RRH?**

In compliance with the NYS DOH mandate, all RRH employees and affiliated personnel, including medical staff, vendors, consultants, community students, and contract labor need to be fully vaccinated or have an approved exemption.

Additionally, all employees and affiliated personnel, including medical staff, vendors, consultants, community students, and contract labor are required to receive the COVID-19 booster (if eligible) by February 21, 2022.

**2. What to do if you've received the booster?**

Employees who have received their booster can upload proof of their booster vaccination to WorkReady's employee portal, [Enterprise Health](#), as soon as possible but no later than February 21.

View a step-by-step knowledge builder on the COVID-19 Toolkit for details on how to upload proof of booster vaccination.

**3. How do I know if I am eligible for a booster?**

Individuals are eligible for a booster vaccination five months after completing the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna series, and two months after the initial J&J/Janssen vaccine. Find out more about eligibility by visiting [New York State's COVID-19 vaccine website](#).

Initial Vaccine	When Eligible for Booster	Compliance for NYS Mandate
Johnson & Johnson	2 months after single dose of the vaccine	30 days after being eligible
Pfizer or Moderna	5 months after the second dose of the vaccine	30 days after being eligible

*Those eligible for the booster can choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. Some people may prefer the vaccine type they originally received and others may prefer to get a different booster.*

**4. What if I am not currently eligible for a booster?**

Employees and affiliated personnel who are not currently eligible for the booster do not need to take any action at this time but need to schedule their booster within 30 days of being eligible.

**5. What does the booster mandate mean for individuals with approved exemptions?**

RRH individuals with approved exemptions must continue following current exemption guidelines.

New exemption requests in response to the NYS DOH mandate must be submitted by **February 17**.

**6. What if I am on leave – do I need to get my booster by February 21?**

Employees returning from leave after February 21 must receive their booster (if eligible) before returning to work.

**7. What is the RRH policy on providing sick pay for Covid-19 booster side effects?**

Employees may use their paid sick time available to them per New York State regulations. If employees do not have paid sick leave and other paid time off remaining, please contact Human Resources.

**8. I recently had COVID. When can I get my booster?**

You can get your booster as soon as you are out of quarantine and your symptoms are resolving. If you have concerns about getting your booster, you may apply for a temporary accommodation through the Enterprise Health [portal](#).

**9. How long is the temporary accommodation?**

If you have recently had COVID-19 and have concerns and are applying for a temporary accommodation, one will be granted for 90-days. Remember, this is not an exemption from getting the vaccine but allows more time for folks to receive the vaccine.

**10. When do I submit a medical exemption?**

If you have concerns about receiving the booster regardless of whether you had a COVID infection or not, please submit a medical exemption from a licensed provider (MD/DO, NP, or PA). The form is located on the [toolkit](#). Those who receive a medical exemption will need to continue to follow all PPE and testing guidelines in place.

**11. How long does the booster shot last?**

Given the unknowns surrounding the duration of protection from the booster dose, as well as the ever-evolving pandemic, there are no current guidelines regarding the need for future booster doses.

**12. Will there be additional mandates if future booster doses are recommended?**

At this time, we are not aware of any additional requirements beyond this booster.

**13. I just received one of the new COVID therapies, when should I get the booster?**

If you received any of the monoclonal antibody therapies due to having a COVID infection, you should wait for at least 90-days before getting a booster vaccination. If you have received Evusheld, please talk to your doctor about the timing for your booster. If you received one of the oral therapies due to infection with COVID19 but have concerns about getting your booster once out of quarantine and feeling better, you may qualify for a temporary accommodation due to COVID infection using [\[INSERT LINK\]](#)

**14. How can I get a one-on-one conversation as I have specific questions about the booster?**

If you have a specific question about getting the booster or can't see your doctor, please email the [COVID-19 Command Center](#).

**15. Is the booster safe and effective?**

The COVID-19 booster is a safe and effective way to protect yourself, coworkers, patients, family, and the community. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the [booster \(third vaccine dose\)](#) has been highly effective, during both the Delta and Omicron surges, at preventing COVID-related emergency and urgent care visits, along with hospitalizations.

Clinical trial data shows the booster vaccination increases immune response and thus improves protection against getting infected with COVID-19 and prevents severe disease.