

# Get your COVID-19 3rd vaccination **booster shot** now!



Speed is important for getting the 3rd vaccination (booster shot), no matter which vaccine maker. A 3rd vaccination helps restore the infection prevention effects of the 1st and 2nd vaccinations that go down over time. It is available exactly 6 months after completing the 2nd vaccination, so please make time for an appointment as soon as possible.

\* The 3rd vaccination (booster shot) is 1 shot only.

## ● Frequently asked questions about the 3rd vaccination (booster shot) Source: Japanese Government Public Relations Online

### Q1 Why do we need the 3rd vaccination?

The vaccine has been shown to be highly effective (against the Delta strain, etc.) in Japan. However, it has been suggested that **the effects of the vaccine go down over time (such as preventing serious symptoms in the elderly)**. At the same time, clinical trials and epidemiological studies report that **the 3rd vaccination effectively helps restore effects that go down over time (protection against infection, serious symptoms, etc.)**.



### Q2 Does the 3rd vaccination work against the Omicron strain?

Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are being used for 3rd vaccinations, which are both mRNA vaccines. **The effectiveness of the 1st and 2nd vaccinations against Omicron go down over time, but it has been reported that this can be restored with the 3rd vaccination.** The United Kingdom Government reported that the effectiveness rate against Omicron-related hospitalization was:

- 44% 25 weeks after the 2nd vaccination
  - 89% 2 weeks after the 3rd vaccination
- For people aged 65 and over:
- 94% 2-9 weeks after the 3rd vaccination
  - 89% from 10 weeks onwards after the 3rd vaccination

Source: UK Health Security Agency Surveillance Report (Pfizer and Moderna)

### Q3 What kind of side effects does the 3rd vaccination have (are they stronger than the 2nd)?

The 3rd vaccination has **similar side effects as the 2nd vaccination (pain, fatigue, etc.)**. However, for the 3rd Moderna vaccination, fewer side effects (fever, etc.) have been reported than the 2nd vaccination.

\* For the 3rd vaccination, Lymph inflammation (sore throat, etc.) side effects are more common than the 2nd vaccination.

Source: Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) Special Approval Report

### Q4 Is it safe to get vaccinated with a different maker vaccine than the 1st and 2nd? Also, is the effectiveness different between Pfizer and Moderna?

Currently in Japan, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines (mRNA) have pharmaceutical approval for 3rd vaccinations. **The 3rd vaccination is proven effective and safe, even if you have had 1st and 2nd vaccinations by a different maker.**

In the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and other countries; the mRNA vaccine is recommended for 3rd vaccinations even if the 1st and 2nd were by different makers. A United Kingdom study reported that people who had Pfizer (1st + 2nd) vaccinations then Pfizer or Moderna\* (3rd) vaccinations had a full antibody increase result in both cases.

\* The 3rd Moderna vaccination is half the amount (50 micrograms) of the 1st and 2nd vaccinations, but the United Kingdom report results are from using the same amount as the 1st and 2nd vaccination.

Source: Munro APS, et al. The Lancet. December 2021

**The 1st - 3rd vaccination period is until the end of September. Please get vaccinated as soon as possible.**

## How to get the 3rd vaccination (booster shot) in Minoh City

In Minoh City, the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) 3rd vaccination (booster shot) has been available to people 18 years old and over from December 2021. This can be received 6 months after getting the 2nd vaccination.

### ● Vaccination Voucher Delivery

Vaccination vouchers are sent 6 months after your 2nd vaccination date (posted the month before) with the vaccination order and appointment availability in mind. **Please make sure your 3rd vaccination reservation date is at least 6 months (same day or) after the date of your 2nd vaccination. Note that you will not be able to get vaccinated if your reservation is within 6 months from your 2nd vaccination date.**

You may not be able to reserve your desired date depending on the situation of the government vaccine supply.

\* The 3rd vaccination voucher is combined as part of the Prevaccination Screening Questionnaire (not a sticker). Please remember to bring this with you on the day (if you do not have a vaccination voucher, you may not be able to get vaccinated). After the vaccination, you will get a vaccination certificate with a label attached, showing the vaccine name and lot number. Please keep this in a safe place.

### ● Vaccination Sites

You can get vaccinated at:

- 2 Hospitals (Tatsumi Imamiya Hospital, Teriha No Sato Minoh Hospital)
- 3 Public facilities in the city (General Health and Welfare Center, Higashi Lifelong Learning Center, Seinan Lifelong Learning Center)

or at individual medical institutions, prefectural large-scale vaccination centers, and The Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) large-scale vaccination centers. For more information, please see the flyer enclosed with your vaccination voucher or visit the City Homepage.

### ● Vaccination Type

The 3rd vaccination (booster shot) uses vaccines by either Pfizer or Moderna, but Moderna is more common in the government vaccine supply. According to foreign reports cited by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), Moderna vaccines are more effective than Pfizer in preventing infection, outbreaks, and severe symptoms.

For more information about the safety and effectiveness of the vaccinations, please refer to the 3rd vaccination (booster shot) information on the City Homepage.

**For more information about the 3rd vaccination (booster shot), please call the City COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Vaccination Call Center (TEL: 072-727-6865) or check the City Homepage (access via QR code) (Japanese only)**

