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Israel's vaccine pass will expire 6 months after the 2nd dose, meaning people will need booster shots to keep going to restaurants and bars

Marianne Guenot Sep 1, 2021, 6:25 PM



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An Israeli girl receives a dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Tel Aviv, Israel. JACK GUEZ/AFP via Getty Images

Israel has set an expiration date on its vaccine pass, which enables access to restaurants and bars.

A booster shot received within five months of the second dose extends the pass' validity by six months.

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Israel said its vaccine pass, which grants access to nonessential venues like restaurants and bars, now expires six months after the second dose of vaccine.

Getting a booster shot five months after the second dose resets the clock and extends eligibility for the so-called "green pass" by another six months, Israel's health ministry [announced on Sunday](#).

The news comes as Israel rolls out boosters to most of its population. On Sunday, Israel's health minister granted access to a third shot to all those over the age of 12 who received a second shot at least five months prior, [the Times of Israel reported](#).

"From today, the third dose is available to everyone," said Israeli Health Ministry Director-General Nachman Ash on Sunday, the Times of Israel reported.

The pass is also valid within six months of recovery from COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status.

It is required to gain access to a number of nonessential venues such as bars and restaurants, [The Wall Street Journal](#) previously reported.

The pass applies to anyone over the age of three. Children who aren't eligible for the vaccine can prove their COVID-19 status using a free antigenic test, [per Israel's health ministry guidance](#).

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suggests [their efficacy against infection is waning over time](#), prompting Israel to

roll out boosters in an effort to curb rising cases in the country.

The country has been administering booster shots for more than a month. The third dose of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccines first became available to all those [over the age of 80 in late July](#), and Israel has been gradually extending the [age eligibility](#).

As of Sunday, about 1.9 million Israelis had received a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine, [per the Times of Israel](#).

This month, the US is also set to [roll out boosters](#) to most Americans who got their second shot more than eight months ago.

The [UK](#), [Germany](#), and [France](#) have also announced their intention to roll out the third shots to more vulnerable populations in September.

The World Health Organization has [issued a moratorium](#) on booster doses until at least the end of September. Vaccine boosters for the "fit and healthy" are a "'luxury' item," the WHO said in a statement sent to Insider on Tuesday.



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