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USA TODAY

'Full vaccination' will likely mean getting a booster shot, Fauci says; millions of Americans keep vaccination secret: COVID-19 updates

Jorge L. Ortiz and Christine Fernando, USA TODAY

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Coronavirus



Anthony Fauci

American immunolo...

The concept of what "full vaccination" means – two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or one of the Johnson & Johnson shot – is likely to change.

That's the estimation of Dr. Anthony Fauci, who on Thursday presented data supporting booster

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Fauci said the decision will be up to the Food and Drug Administration, but added, “I would not at all be surprised that the adequate full regimen for vaccination will likely be three doses.”

The requirement of a third dose for “full vaccination” would have broad implications for schools, businesses and other entities with vaccine mandates.

Fauci pointed to the results of a study of more than 1 million people in Israel that showed a “rather substantial positive impact” 12 days or more after they received a Pfizer booster shot amid spread of the delta variant. Data from the study show a reduction of more than tenfold in relative risk of both infection and severe disease after the booster, Fauci said.

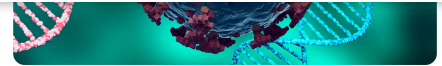
The Biden administration said it will start providing booster shots Sept. 20 for people whose second dose was administered at least eight months before. The need for a J&J booster shot has not been determined yet but [the CDC says it's likely](#).

“There’s no doubt from the dramatic data from the Israeli study that the boosts that are being now done there and contemplated here support very strongly the rationale for such an approach,” Fauci said.

Members of the COVID response team also said they’re monitoring the new mu variant, which the World Health Organization says has a “constellation of mutations” that could allow it to dodge vaccine immunity.

The variant has been detected in the U.S. but on a small scale, with the delta variant accounting for more than 99% of the sequenced infections.

“We’re paying attention to it, we take everything like that seriously,” Fauci said, “but we don’t consider it an immediate threat right now.”



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