



# PHARMACY FACTS

*Current information for pharmacists about  
the MassHealth Pharmacy Program*

[www.mass.gov/masshealth-pharmacy-facts](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth-pharmacy-facts)

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## COVID-19 Vaccines

The MassHealth Pharmacy Program continues to maintain open access to COVID-19 vaccines for all members. This bulletin outlines recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) outlining patients who qualify for vaccination and recommended products for the primary series as well as booster vaccinations. We encourage providers to bookmark and check for any updated guidance around the CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations for the Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States, available at

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>.

Another helpful resource to reference is the FAQs for the Interim Clinical Considerations for COVID-19 Vaccination, available at

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/faq.html>. The Massachusetts

Department of Public Health COVID-19 vaccine provider bulletins can be found at:

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/weekly-covid-19-vaccine-provider-bulletins>.

## Who to Vaccinate

COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all patients aged six months and older in the United States for the prevention of COVID-19. At this time there is no COVID-19 vaccine FDA-approved for children younger than six months of age.

Patients should stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccination by completing a primary series and receiving the most recent booster dose recommended for them by CDC (see the [Interim Clinical Considerations](#) link).

See the appendices from the CDC for recommendations on special populations such as those who were vaccinated outside of the United States and those who were initially part of a

COVID-19 vaccine trial: Appendix B ([People who received COVID-19 vaccine outside the United States](#)) and Appendix C ([People who received COVID-19 vaccine as part of a clinical trial](#)).

## Primary Series Vaccination

For primary series vaccination, three monovalent COVID-19 vaccines (listed in alphabetical order by manufacturer), are recommended: Moderna, Novavax, and Pfizer-BioNTech.

It is recommended that patients six months of age and older receive the primary series.

Monovalent vaccines should be used for the primary series, with the exception of children six months to four years of age who received two doses of a monovalent Pfizer vaccine. This patient subset should receive a bivalent Pfizer vaccine as their third primary series dose.

Vaccine products made by the same manufacturer should be used for all doses of the primary series. See attached link for additional information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html#Interchangeability>.

## Booster Vaccination

Monovalent mRNA vaccines are not authorized as a booster dose.

It is recommended that patients six months of age and older receive one bivalent mRNA booster dose at least two months after completion of any FDA-approved or FDA-authorized primary series or previously received monovalent booster dose(s). One exception to this rule, is children aged six months to four years who receive a three-dose Pfizer primary series. These patients are not authorized to receive a booster dose at this time, regardless of whether

the monovalent or bivalent Pfizer vaccine was administered for the third primary series dose. A monovalent Novavax booster dose (instead of a bivalent mRNA booster dose) is recommended for use in limited situations. This includes, in patients 18 years of age or older who have completed any FDA-approved or FDA-authorized monovalent primary series, patients who have not received any previous booster dose(s), as well as patients who are unable or unwilling to receive an mRNA vaccine and would otherwise not receive a booster dose.

### **Bivalent Booster Product Varies by Age**

- Ages **six months–four years** and have completed the **Moderna primary series**: one **bivalent Moderna booster** dose (given at least two months after completion of primary series vaccination).
- Ages **six months–four years** and have completed **Pfizer primary series**: **no booster** dose is recommended at this time.
- Age **five years** and have completed **Moderna primary series**: one **bivalent mRNA booster** dose (**Moderna or Pfizer**) (given at least two months after completion of primary series vaccination).
- Age **five years** and have completed **Pfizer primary series**: one **bivalent Pfizer booster** dose. (regardless of whether the third primary series dose was a monovalent or bivalent Pfizer vaccine). (given at least two months after completion of primary series vaccination).
- Ages **six years and older** and have completed **any primary series**: one **bivalent mRNA booster dose (Moderna or Pfizer)** (given at least two months after completion of primary series vaccination).

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Schedule**

The COVID-19 vaccination schedule for people who are NOT immunocompromised can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html#not-immunocompromised>. A vaccination schedule infographic for people who are not moderately or severely immunocompromised can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/images/COVID19-vaccination-schedule-most-people.png>.

The recommended schedule for those who ARE immunocompromised can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html#immunocompromised>. A vaccination schedule infographic for people who are immunocompromised can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/images/COVID19-vaccination-schedule-immunocompromised.png>.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Formulations Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States**

The table on the next page can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/summary-interim-clinical-considerations.pdf>.

COVID-19 vaccine products currently approved or authorized in the United States

Pfizer-BioNTech								
Age indication	Vaccine composition	Vaccine vial cap color	Label border color	Dilution required	Primary series		Booster doses	
					Dose	Injection volume	Dose	Injection volume
6 months–4 years	Monovalent (Use for 1st and 2nd Dose) <sup>*</sup>	Maroon	Maroon	Yes	Doses 1 and 2: 3 µg/0.2 mL		A booster dose is not authorized for children who received a 3-dose primary series regardless which vaccine (monovalent or bivalent) was administered for Dose 3.	
6 months–4 years	Bivalent (Use for 3rd Dose)	Maroon	Maroon	Yes	Dose 3: 3 µg/0.2 mL			
5–11 years	Monovalent	Orange	Orange	Yes	10 µg	0.2 mL	NA	NA
5–11 years	Bivalent	Orange	Orange	Yes	NA	NA	10 µg	0.2 mL
12 years and older	Monovalent	Gray	Gray	No	30 µg	0.3 mL	NA	NA
12 years and older	Bivalent	Gray	Gray	No	NA	NA	30 µg	0.3 mL

  

Moderna								
Age indication	Vaccine composition	Vaccine vial cap color	Label border color	Dilution required	Primary series		Booster doses	
					Dose	Injection volume	Dose	Injection volume
6 months–5 years	Monovalent	Dark blue	Magenta	No	25 µg	0.25 mL	NA	NA
6 months–5 years	Bivalent*	Dark pink	Yellow	No	NA	NA	10 µg	0.2 mL
6–11 years	Monovalent	Dark blue	Purple	No	50 µg	0.5 mL	NA	NA
6–11 years	Bivalent	Dark blue	Gray	No	NA	NA	25 µg	0.25 mL
12 years and older	Monovalent	Red	Light blue	No	100 µg	0.5 mL	NA	NA
12 years and older	Bivalent	Dark blue	Gray	No	NA	NA	50 µg	0.5 mL

\* A monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is used for the first and second primary doses; a bivalent Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is used for the third primary dose.

Janssen								
Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine is authorized for adults ages 18 years and older in certain limited situations due to safety considerations. For guidance on retrospective record review, scheduling and administration of Janssen vaccine see <a href="#">Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines: Appendix A</a>								
Age indication	Vaccine composition	Vaccine vial cap color	Label border color	Dilution required	Primary series		Booster doses	
					Dose	Injection volume	Dose	Injection volume
18 years and older	Monovalent	Blue	No Color	No	5×10 <sup>10</sup> viral particles	0.5 mL	5×10 <sup>10</sup> viral particles	0.5 mL

  

Novavax								
Age indication	Vaccine composition	Vaccine vial cap color	Label border color	Dilution required	Primary series		Booster doses <sup>†</sup>	
					Dose	Injection volume	Dose	Injection volume
12 years and older	Monovalent	Royal blue	No Color	No	5 µg rS and 50 µg of Matrix-M™ adjuvant	0.5 mL	5 µg rS and 50 µg of Matrix-M™ adjuvant	0.5 mL

<sup>†</sup> Booster doses are only indicated for recipients 18 years and age and older in limited situations; see: [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States](#)

COVID-19 vaccine formulations currently approved or authorized in the United States

The table below can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/summary-interim-clinical-considerations.pdf>.