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Below you will find some important Program requirements that we would like to highlight. The updated SOP template for providers to use can be found at [COVID-19 Vaccine Program Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)](https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-vaccine-management-standard-operating-procedure-sop-template/download) .  Please review this updated SOP and replace your current SOP upon receipt.     * COVID vaccines are required to be stored in a purpose-built or pharmaceutical-grade designed to either refrigerate or freeze.   + ***The use of any a dormitory-style, bar-style, or household combination refrigerator/freezer unit for storage of any COVID vaccines, including temporary storage, is strictly prohibited.*** * The use of a Digital Data Logger (DDL) is REQUIRED in all units storing state-supplied COVID-19 vaccines.   + ***A DDL must be in use at all times including during transport of vaccines and temporary storage of vaccines on other units.*** * Digital data log reports must be kept for 3 years.   + ***Handwritten logs are not acceptable*** * COVID-19 vaccine providers cannot charge administrative fees directly to patients for administering COVID-19 vaccines.   **Moderna and Pfizer Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccines Authorized for Use as a Booster Dose in Younger Age Groups (as young as 5 years old)**  On October 12, 2022, the FDA amended the EUAs of the Moderna Bivalent and the Pfizer Bivalent COVID-19 vaccines, to authorize their use as a single booster dose in younger age groups.   * The Moderna Bivalent vaccine is authorized for administration at least two months following completion of primary or booster vaccination in children down to six years of age. * The Pfizer Bivalent vaccine is authorized for administration at least two months following completion of primary or booster vaccination in children down to five years of age.   Following the [FDA announcement](https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-moderna-and-pfizer-biontech-bivalent-covid-19-vaccines), CDC’s Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky released a [statement](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s1012-COVID-19-Vaccines.html__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!iCOuWAiJylZhS-WjgHcYv_hywDFTb1f9RfzbYcEOW0HtdqgKsgfTqI8MjapWlhMgrDkK2Jx8utUS5srpYMv0q0EpyA$) and signed a decision memo recommending updated (bivalent) COVID-19 boosters for children five years and older. This expands on CDC's [recommendation](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0719-covid-novavax-vaccine.html__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!iCOuWAiJylZhS-WjgHcYv_hywDFTb1f9RfzbYcEOW0HtdqgKsgfTqI8MjapWlhMgrDkK2Jx8utUS5srpYMsoExGWbw$) issued September 1, 2022, for updated COVID-19 boosters of people ages 12 and older.    The updated COVID-19 boosters add Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 spike protein components to the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine composition, increasing protection against the currently circulating variants.  **With this authorization, the monovalent COVID-19 vaccines are no longer authorized as boosters. Only the updated/bivalent COVID-19 vaccines are authorized as boosters**. Both the Moderna and Pfizer monovalent COVID-19 Vaccines continue to be authorized for primary series administration in individuals six months of age and older.  **QUESTION OF THE WEEK**  **Q:** **Why are vaccines based on age and not on weight?**  **A:** Vaccine dosages are based on age and not size or weight because they work differently than other medications. This is true for COVID-19 vaccines and other routinely recommended vaccines, like influenza or hepatitis vaccines.  Medications are often based on weight because they are distributed through the bloodstream and work when a certain medication level is present. In this case, a person’s weight is important for the dosage. To achieve the same effects, a person weighing more will require more of a medication than a person weighing less.  Vaccines work differently and are not distributed through the bloodstream. Vaccines imitate an infection when administered, activating the body’s immune response, which typically occurs at or near the injection site. Immune cells are directed to the injection site to attack foreign cells or proteins and produce antibodies that travel throughout the body and will protect against future infection.  Because of how vaccines work, they typically require low quantities of active ingredients. Different dosages are evaluated during vaccine development to determine the lowest effective dose for the target age group. Clinical trials evaluate various dosing regimens to determine the best dosage and schedule that produces an adequate immune response which is both safe and effective.  For more information, see [Understanding How Vaccines Work](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/understanding-vacc-work.html).  **WHO TO VACCINATE**  COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for everyone ages 6 months and older in the United States for the prevention of COVID-19. There is currently no FDA-approved or FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine for children younger than age 6 months.  People can stay [up to date](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html) with COVID-19 vaccination by completing a primary series and receiving the most recent booster dose recommended for them by CDC (see [Table 2](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2120-DM91977&ACSTrackingLabel=Updated%20Guidance%3A%20Interim%20Clinical%20Considerations%20for%20Use%20of%20COVID-19%20Vaccines&deliveryName=USCDC_2120-DM91977#table-02) and [Table 3](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2120-DM91977&ACSTrackingLabel=Updated%20Guidance%3A%20Interim%20Clinical%20Considerations%20for%20Use%20of%20COVID-19%20Vaccines&deliveryName=USCDC_2120-DM91977#table-03)).  See Appendices B ([People who received COVID-19 vaccine outside the United States](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us-appendix.html#appendix-b)) and C ([People who received COVID-19 vaccine as part of a clinical trial](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us-appendix.html#appendix-c)) for recommendations for these populations.  **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. **Bivalent mRNA vaccines are not authorized or approved at this time for primary series doses.** The same vaccine product should be used for all doses of the primary series (see [Interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccine products](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2120-DM91977&ACSTrackingLabel=Updated%20Guidance%3A%20Interim%20Clinical%20Considerations%20for%20Use%20of%20COVID-19%20Vaccines&deliveryName=USCDC_2120-DM91977#Interchangeability)).  **Booster vaccination**  For booster vaccination, an mRNA vaccine (i.e., Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech) is recommended. Recommendations vary based on age and primary series product. **People ages 5 years and older are recommended to receive 1 bivalent mRNA booster dose after completion of any FDA-approved or FDA-authorized monovalent primary series or previously received monovalent booster dose(s).** **This new booster recommendation replaces all prior booster recommendations for this age group.**Monovalent mRNA vaccines are no longer authorized as a booster dose for people ages 5 years and older.  **Vaccine administration**  **Vaccination providers should ensure the correct age-appropriate product is administered based on the recipient’s age on the day of vaccination** ([Table 1](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2120-DM91977&ACSTrackingLabel=Updated%20Guidance%3A%20Interim%20Clinical%20Considerations%20for%20Use%20of%20COVID-19%20Vaccines&deliveryName=USCDC_2120-DM91977#table-01)). Vaccine doses should be administered by the intramuscular route and in accordance with the recommended intervals for that age group.  For guidance on timing of vaccination in specific situations, see [Transitioning from a younger to older age group](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2120-DM91977&ACSTrackingLabel=Updated%20Guidance%3A%20Interim%20Clinical%20Considerations%20for%20Use%20of%20COVID-19%20Vaccines&deliveryName=USCDC_2120-DM91977#transitioning-younger-older), [Considerations for extended intervals for COVID-19 vaccine primary series doses](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2120-DM91977&ACSTrackingLabel=Updated%20Guidance%3A%20Interim%20Clinical%20Considerations%20for%20Use%20of%20COVID-19%20Vaccines&deliveryName=USCDC_2120-DM91977#intervals-covid19-vaccine-primary-series), and [COVID-19 vaccination and SARS-CoV-2-infection](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2120-DM91977&ACSTrackingLabel=Updated%20Guidance%3A%20Interim%20Clinical%20Considerations%20for%20Use%20of%20COVID-19%20Vaccines&deliveryName=USCDC_2120-DM91977#infection).  **WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK**  **CDC has streamlined what it means to be “**[**up to date**](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html)**” with COVID-19 vaccines.**  With the arrival of updated boosters, CDC is reframing what it means to be up to date with COVID-19 vaccination. **You are up to date if you have completed a primary series and received the most recent booster dose recommended for you by CDC**.  **Four COVID-19 vaccines are currently approved under a BLA or authorized under an EUA by the FDA:**  The following COVID-19 vaccines, categorized into three [vaccine types](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/understanding-vacc-work.html), are currently approved under a BLA or authorized under an EUA by the FDA:   * [mRNA vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mrna.html)   + Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine/SPIKEVAX and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent   + Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine/COMIRNATY and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent * [Protein subunit vaccine](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/proteinsubunit.html)   + Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted * [Adenovirus vector vaccine](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/viralvector.html)   + Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 Vaccine   None of the currently FDA-approved or FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines are live-virus vaccines.  For primary series vaccination, three monovalent COVID-19 vaccines (listed in alphabetical order by manufacturer), are recommended: Moderna, Novavax, and Pfizer. Bivalent mRNA vaccines are not authorized or approved at this time for primary series doses.  Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine is authorized for adults ages 18 years and older in [certain limited situations](https://www.fda.gov/media/146304/download) due to safety considerations (see [Appendix A](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us-appendix.html#appendix-a)).  **COVID-19 vaccine formulations currently approved or authorized in the United States**      **BIVALENT VACCINE SUPPLY**  **Ample Supplies of both Moderna and Pfizer Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine**  **There are ample supplies of both bivalent Moderna and Pfizer COVID vaccines**. We encourage all health care providers to be vaccinating in their practices and hosting clinics. **Sites with doses on hand that are not actively vaccinating may be prevented from ordering additional supply. Sites not using their current vaccine supply on hand may transfer to another site.** You can order up to a two week supply of vaccine and order as often as needed.  To project your vaccine needs, consider the following:   * What is the patient population your clinic is serving, i.e., workforce or a public clinic * What is your staff capacity for vaccination each day/week * What is your storage capacity to store doses * How many doses do you need for the next two weeks   As reminder, **provider sites can order above the ceiling limit posted in the MIIS**. A pop-up warning will appear; click okay to bypass the warning. It will move you to the next screen to review and confirm the shipping information; click okay. The order worklist will appear on the next screen. Please check the order status on the worklist. Ensure your order is in ‘Submitted to State’ status. Orders will be processed by Vaccine Unit staff within 24-48 hours. Once approved, orders are submitted to CDC the next morning before 9 AM. Once orders are submitted to CDC, orders cannot be canceled or modified.  To ensure there are no issues or delay with your vaccine order:   * Report administered doses to the MIIS * Review your inventory and process a storage and handling issue in the MIIS for expired or wasted vaccines.   Providers are strongly encouraged to offer flu vaccine in conjunction with bivalent booster doses.  If you have any questions or need assistance with placing a bivalent Pfizer COVID vaccine booster, please call the Vaccine Management Unit at 617-983-6828 or email at [dph-vaccine-managment@mass.gov](mailto:dph-vaccine-managment@mass.gov).  **VACCINES FORMULATIONS AVAILABLE FOR ORDERING**  **COVID Vaccine Available for ordering in the MIIS**  All providers enrolled Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Program (MCVP) are able to place routine orders for all of the following COVID-19 vaccine formulations through the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS).  **Pfizer 5-11 Bivalent is being shipped and available for ordering**  For those who placed a pre-order of the Pfizer 5-11 Bivalent vaccines, CDC has started shipping out vaccines. In addition, routine ordering of the Pfizer 5-11 Bivalent vaccine is now available in the MIIS. As a reminder the Moderna bivalent vaccine that is already in circulation is available to be used for all those aged 6 years and up effective immediately.  **Special note**: Pfizer 5-11 Bivalent vaccines is available for ordering in the MIIS.     |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |  | | --- | | * Initial shipments of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children aged 6m–4 years may state “2y to <5y” or “6m to <5y” on the vial or carton labels. Please note that vials or cartons with labels that state “2y to <5y” can be used for children aged 6m through 4 years. * Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine vial labels and cartons may also state that a vial should be discarded 6 hours after the first dilution however as stated in the EUA Fact Sheet the timeframe for use post-dilution is actually 12 hours just like orange and gray cap Pfizer vaccine formulations.     **\*Please Note:** For pediatric practices that are currently not supplying the Pfizer 5-11 year old formulation due to logistical challenges please consider supplying the new Moderna 6-11 year old formulation as it comes in only 5 dose vials, requires no reconstitution, and can be stored in a standard freezer until expiration. | | | **Reminde*r* Vaccine Inventory Management**  Vaccine Inventory Management is critical to ensure expired or vaccines past the Beyond Use Date (BUD) are not used to administered to patients. Vaccine inventory should be checked daily. During the daily check (1) review and compare your physical inventory to your MIIS inventory, (2) process storage and handling issues in the MIIS for all wasted or expired doses. Vaccine orders may be canceled or reduced due to MIIS inventory showing high inventory or expired vaccines.  Process [a storage and handling problem](https://resources.miisresourcecenter.com/trainingcenter/Storage%20Handling%20Problem_2018_Mini%20Guide.pdf) in the MIIS for any expired or wasted vaccines.  **Reminder** **Expiry Date vs Beyond Use Date (BUD)**  The **expiration date** is set by the manufacturer and is the date by which the vaccine should be used. The expiration date assumes that the vaccine has been stored and handled according to the manufacturer’s guidance. Expiration dates cannot change based on how vaccine is being stored or when a vial is punctured. However, on occasion, the expiration date may be updated by the manufacturer as additional stability data become available.  **Beyond Use Date (BUD)** is the date of when the vaccine can no longer be used due to a change in storage temperature, reconstitution, puncturing the vial, etc. It is recommended to place a label with the BUD and the initials of the person making the calculation whenever a vaccine vial or box is moved to a different temperature storage unit, reconstituted, or had a vial punctured resulting in a chance in the BUD.  You can find BUD guidance and labels for [Moderna,](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/downloads/storage-handling-label.pdf) [Novavax](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/novavax/downloads/novavax-bud-tracking-labels.pdf), [Janssen](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/janssen/downloads/janssen-storage-handling-label.pdf), and [Pfizer](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/storage-handling-label.pdf) from the CDC’s U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Product Information webpage.  **Watch for Expired Vaccine**  Providers should make it a practice to regularly check inventory for expired vaccine and immediately remove expired inventory to prevent it from being administered.  **Vaccine Expiration Date Lookup & Reference Information:**   * [Novavax Expiry Date Checker](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/us.novavaxcovidvaccine.com/hcp__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLmNfQafCQ$) * [Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Expiry Website](https://lotexpiry.cvdvaccine.com/) * [Moderna Vial Expiration Date Look-up Tool](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/providers/vial-lookup*vialLookUpTool__;Iw!!CUhgQOZqV7M!yGxVYV8BHtqcZ60FKi8HB3uTYxz3dJj1bcC-2OzWyfsACxpCz6nJTr6JC4lms1wWZFJCEE0%24) * [Janssen Expiration Date Lookup Tool](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/vaxcheck.jnj/__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!yGxVYV8BHtqcZ60FKi8HB3uTYxz3dJj1bcC-2OzWyfsACxpCz6nJTr6JC4lms1wWIR4woRQ%24)     **Helpful Reference Materials**   * [Interim COVID-19 Immunization Schedule](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/COVID-19-immunization-schedule-ages-6months-older.pdf) (Updated 10/13/2022) * [AAP’s Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Dosing Quick Reference Guide](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/COVID*20Vaccine*20Dosing_Quick*20Reference.pdf__;JSUl!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLkQx_euEA$) (updated Oct 2022) * [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine for Children who Transition from a Younger to Older Age Group](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/Moderna-Child-Age-Transition-508.pdf__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLm835ogRw$) * [Pfizer-BioNTech for Children who Transition from a Younger to Older Age Group](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/Pfizer-Child-Age-Transition-508.pdf__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLm3fhfIdw$) * [Vaccine administration errors and deviations (Appendix D)](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us-appendix.html#appendix-d) * [FAQs for the Interim Clinical Considerations](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/faq.html) * [COVID-19 vaccination and SARS-CoV-2 infection](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html#infection) * [People who received COVID-19 vaccine outside the United States (Appendix B)](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us-appendix.html#appendix-b) * [People who received COVID-19 vaccine as part of a clinical trial (Appendix C)](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us-appendix.html#appendix-c) * [Triage of people with a history of allergies or allergic reactions (Appendix E)](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us-appendix.html#appendix-e)   **“At a Glance” Summaries**  The CDC “At a Glance” Summaries include Storage and Handling basics, Preparation and Administration Basics, and a Schedule graphic.   * Pfizer (updated 10/11/2022) <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/vaccine-at-a-glance.pdf> * Moderna (updated 10/11/2022) <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/downloads/vaccine-at-a-glance.pdf> * Novavax [https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/novavax/downloads/novavax-prep-admin-summary.pdf](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/novavax/downloads/novavax-prep-admin-summary.pdf__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLmS8GIhaA$)     **Standing Orders**   * Novavax (updated 9/7/2022) <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/novavax/downloads/novavax-standing-orders.pdf> * CDC’s Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine info (including the standing orders below) <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/index.html> * Moderna 6 months through 5 years of age <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/downloads/infant_standing-orders.pdf> * Moderna 6 through 11 years of age (updated 10/13/2022) <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/downloads/6-11-standing-orders.pdf> * Moderna 12 years of age and older (updated 10/13/2022) <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/downloads/12-17-standing-orders.pdf> * CDC’s Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine info (including the standing orders below) <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/index.html> * Pfizer 6 months through 4 years of age <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/infant-standing-orders.pdf> * Pfizer 5 through 11 years of age (updated 10/13/2022) <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/Pfizer_PED_StandingOrders.pdf> * Pfizer, Monovalent and Bivalent: 12 years of age and older (updated 10/11/2022) <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/gray-cap-Pfizer-BioNTech-standing-orders.pdf>     **Information for parents and caregivers:**   * [[Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines Including Boosters|](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html) CDC](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/children-teens.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https*3A*2F*2Fwww.cdc.gov*2Fcoronavirus*2F2019-ncov*2Fvaccines*2Frecommendations*2Fadolescents.html__;JSUlJSUlJSU!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLkfB9jY2A$) * [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination in Children | CDC](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq-children.html__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLl-eqIMAQ$) * [6 Things to Know about COVID-19 Vaccination for Children | CDC](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/planning/children/6-things-to-know.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https*3A*2F*2Fwww.cdc.gov*2Fvaccines*2Fcovid-19*2Fplanning*2Fchildren*2F10-things-to-know.html__;JSUlJSUlJSU!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLn4H4jdWg$) * [V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker | CDC](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLnDCjkUdQ$) * [COVID-19 Vaccine: Frequently Asked Questions | American Academy of Pediatrics](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/covid-19-vaccine-for-children/about-the-covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions/__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLn2BtygXA$) | | |  | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |  | | --- | | **COVID-19 vaccination schedule for people who are NOT moderately or severely immunocompromised**  For primary series vaccination, Moderna, Novavax, and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines are recommended; only monovalent vaccines are approved or authorized for primary series doses. The same vaccine product should be used for all doses of the primary series (see [Interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccine products](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html#Interchangeability)). | | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |  | | --- | | **Considerations for intervals for mRNA COVID-19 vaccine primary series**  **An 8-week interval may be optimal for people who are not moderately or severely immunocompromised and ages 6 months-64 years, especially for males ages 12–39 years.** COVID-19 vaccines are FDA-approved or FDA-authorized for a 3-week (Pfizer vaccine) or 4-week (Moderna vaccine) interval between the first and second dose. A 3- or 4-week interval continues to be the recommended interval for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, adults ages 65 years and older, and in situations when the fullest possible protection needs to be achieved sooner (e.g., increased concern about [COVID-19 community levels](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLnC1H_DIA$) or an individual’s higher risk for severe disease).  mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective at the FDA-approved or FDA-authorized intervals, but a longer interval may be considered for some populations. While absolute risk remains small, the risk for myocarditis is higher for males ages 12-39 years, and this risk might be reduced by extending the interval between the first and second dose. [Some studies](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2022-02-04/11-COVID-Moulia-508.pdf__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLm2YAf_jw$) in adolescents (ages 12-17 years) and adults have shown the small risk of myocarditis associated with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines might be reduced and peak antibody responses and vaccine effectiveness may be increased with an interval longer than 4 weeks. Extending the interval beyond 8 weeks has not been shown to provide additional benefit. **In summary, an 8-week interval may be optimal for people who are not moderately or severely immunocompromised and ages 6 months-64 years, especially for males ages 12–39 years.**  **Transitioning from a younger to older age group**  CDC recommends vaccine recipients **receive the recommended age-appropriate vaccine product and dosage based on their age on the day of vaccination**. If a person moves from a younger age group to an older age group, once they qualify for the older age formulation, they should receive the vaccine product and dosage for the older age group.    FDA authorization does allow for dosing options for certain age transitions. These options are considered acceptable, as opposed to recommended. Since these options are acceptable, they are not considered vaccine administration errors and do not need to be reported to VAERS. For more detail see the [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Children who Transition from a Younger to Older Age Group](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/Pfizer-Child-Age-Transition-508.pdf__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLm3fhfIdw$) and the [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine for Children who Transition from a Younger to Older Age Group](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/Moderna-Child-Age-Transition-508.pdf__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLm835ogRw$), and the [Clinical Considerations](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html*timing-spacing-interchangeability__;Iw!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLl41SFlaw$).    **COVID-19 vaccination schedule for people who ARE moderately or severely immunocompromised**  People with immunocompromising conditions or people who take immunosuppressive medications or therapies are [at increased risk for severe COVID-19](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLkIiPeCZA$). Because the immune response following COVID-19 vaccination may differ in people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised at the time of vaccination, specific guidance for this population is provided.  For primary series vaccination, Moderna, Novavax, and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines are recommended; only monovalent vaccines are approved or authorized for primary series doses. The same vaccine product should be used for all doses of the primary series (see [Interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccine products](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html#Interchangeability)).  For booster vaccination, Moderna and Pfizer are recommended. Recommendations vary based on age and primary series product.  People who are or who become moderately or severely immunocompromised should follow the COVID-19 vaccination schedule according to their age and immune status at the time of eligibility for that dose. For example, people who become moderately or severely immunocompromised after completing a 2-dose mRNA primary series do not need additional primary doses; however, they should follow the schedule for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised for the booster dose. | | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |  | | --- | | **CDC interactive tool for the public to assess if they are eligible for a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine**  CDC has an interactive tool to help users identify whether they (or someone else) need to receive a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine. The “Find Out When You Can Get Your Booster” tool asks a series of simple questions about age, immunocompromise, number and type of previous doses of COVID-19 vaccines, and how long ago they received the most recent vaccination. From these answers, the tool reports whether a first or second booster dose may be beneficial and presents considerations for when to receive it. Find the tool [here](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html*when-you-can-get-booster__;Iw!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLkqIhXZbA$).    **EUA Fact Sheets**  Once a new EUA Fact Sheet is issued, it must be used. Previous ones no longer contain accurate information. | | | |  | | --- | | * Novavax EUAscan be found on the FDA website[here](https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/novavax-covid-19-vaccine-adjuvanted) * Pfizer EUAs can be found on the FDA website [here](https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccines) * Moderna EUAscan be found on the FDA website[here](https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/moderna-covid-19-vaccines) * Janssen EUAscan be found on the FDA website[here](https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/janssen-covid-19-vaccine) | | | |  | | --- | | **RESOURCES & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**  **Moderna Education Sessions**   * National Educational Webinars, register [here](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https*3A*2F*2Fi.modernatx.com*2FOTQ5LUJERy0yNzQAAAGHcaS4rXHRi-6okcP9O4irYKpySr8rTYsBYsVlKdLHlfvrETJuJxjvrvamHRsJw6wfxoEnhGw*3D&data=05*7C01*7Chaley.golini*40epsilon.com*7C6a99363e14904c01759108daad4b5864*7Cd52c9ea17c2147b182a333a74b1f74b8*7C0*7C0*7C638012836377159814*7CUnknown*7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0*3D*7C3000*7C*7C*7C&sdata=*2FYGADYL8mOKcIt6rcGW*2B5U8ONnrRqDuT*2Fcz1BTUGYKQ*3D&reserved=0__;JSUlJSUlJSUlJSUlJSUlJSUlJSUlJSUl!!CUhgQOZqV7M!iqHdeewaZuutv41S_0KuEPyQVCbBZ30e8PtojbdJOEe4wSuIGKCTXzXr4OtIpKagvpuI0ZqV3mE-BngocZlEpA6EfgRokDmI5HE$) * Regional Medical Affairs Office Hours, register [here](https://app.livestorm.co/moderna-na-medical/moderna-office-hours-omicron-bivalent-boosters)   **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Medical Updates** on Current & Immunization Site Training  Pfizer Vaccines US Medical Affairs continues to host frequent *Medical Updates & Immunization Site Training for All Providers.* Session topics include:   * Emergency use authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent (Original and Omicron BA.4/BA.5) as a single booster dose for individuals 12 years of age and older * Use of each currently authorized vaccine presentation, including storage, handling, preparation, and administration * Question and answer session   To access the training sessions, please visit: [https://www.pfizermedicalinformation.com/en-us/medical-updates](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.pfizermedicalinformation.com/en-us/medical-updates__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!wnopdixLkKhCVeMjUiwcd-KVQVUN9jXipkisyDlTme9oe3pB9EYR1yJo7AhKgBWejq3FUBI%24)  **COVID-19 Vaccine Training Modules**  CDC’s four training modules (General Overview, Pfizer, Moderna, Janssen) can be found [here](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www2.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/covid19/__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLmgOEuTAw$).  **COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar Series**  CDC is offering a series of brief (15-20 minute) webinars addressing topics around COVID-19 vaccination. These interactive, web-based training modules offer a real-world perspective on different issues around COVID-19 vaccines. Topics range from routine clinical and vaccine safety information to guidance for on-site clinic vaccination activities and having conversations with vaccine recipients. Each webinar includes self-test practice questions and lists additional resources related to the topic discussed. The landing page for all mini webinars is here: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training-education/webinars.html>  **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report**, better known as MMWR, is CDC’s primary publication for disseminating the science it produces. The staff at MMWR have launched a [landing page](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/mmwr/covid19_vaccine_safety.html__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!nRUoQQ3O0sXDsoGrcKqMZNaYlntqzHaLjaVFFHDNRBSX8TjPyGoFcmPD-tBZlBdXf0iARx3zc_y54hIzVRIvIryBSLmguNExOQ$) to help people find the latest information on COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness and safety.    **Recent CDC MMWRs**  October 14, 2022   * [Adverse Childhood Experiences During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Associations with Poor Mental Health and Suicidal Behaviors Among High School Students — Adolescent Behaviors and Experiences Survey, United States, January–June 2021](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7141a2.htm?s_cid=mm7141a2_w)   **MDPH RESOURCES**  **Massachusetts Resources**   * COVID-19 vaccinations for [children ages 6 months to 4 years old](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccinations-for-children-ages-6-months-to-4-years-old) * COVID-19 vaccinations for [children ages 5-17](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccinations-for-children-and-youth-ages-5-17) * COVID-19 [Vaccine Information](https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine) * COVID-19 [booster information](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-booster-frequently-asked-questions) and [booster frequently asked questions](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-booster-frequently-asked-questions) * Search for Vaccine locations: <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/> * COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line/2-1-1 is available for individuals who are unable to use Vaxfinder, or have difficulty accessing the internet. Available in English and Spanish and has translators available in approximately 100 additional languages. * COVID-19 Vaccine Training and Education Resources for Providers: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-training-and-education-resources-for-providers> * [Multilingual COVID-19 Materials](https://www.mass.gov/resource/multilingual-covid-19-materials). Resources related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in multiple languages. Includes videos and printables on topics like vaccine safety, pregnancy and the vaccine, and FAQs.   **Immunization Division Main Number**  For questions about immunization recommendations, disease reporting, etc.  Phone: 617-983-6800 (24/7 MDPH Epi line)  Fax: 617-983-6840  Website: <https://www.mass.gov/topics/immunization>  **MIIS Help Desk**  Phone: 617-983-4335  Fax: 857-323-8321  Email questions to: [miishelpdesk@mass.gov](mailto:miishelpdesk@mass.gov)  Website: <https://www.mass.gov/massachusetts-immunization-information-system-miis>    **MDPH Vaccine Unit**  Phone: 617-983-6828  Email questions to: [dph-vaccine-management@mass.gov](mailto:dph-vaccine-management@mass.gov)  Website: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/vaccine-management>  **COVID-19 Email Box**  Email questions to: [COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov](mailto:COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov) | | | | | |