



Interval Extension for COVID-19 Primary Vaccine Dose Series

The CDC has updated their [Interim Clinical Considerations](#) for the interval between primary series doses of COVID-19 mRNA vaccines. The new guidance helps providers determine the appropriate vaccine interval between first and second primary doses of mRNA vaccines based on the vaccine recipient. The updated interval range of **three to eight weeks** applies only to mRNA vaccine primary series doses.

- The change reflects new [data](#) showing that a longer interval between first and second doses may benefit some patients by increasing immune response and decreasing adverse reactions.
- The recommendation applies to individuals ages 12-64 who are not moderately or severely immunocompromised, particularly males ages 12-39 years of age.
- Providers should continue to recommend the original three or four-week intervals when vaccine recipients are immunocompromised, over the age of 65, or in situations when there is high community transmission.
- Individuals who received mRNA COVID-19 vaccines on the original three or four-week primary dose schedule continue to remain well protected, especially if they are fully up to date with their vaccines and booster doses.

See the following chart for the updated recommendation schedule.

Primary series vaccine manufacturer	Age group	Number of doses in primary series	Number of booster doses	Interval between 1 st and 2 nd dose *	Interval between primary series and booster dose
Pfizer-BioNTech	5–11 years	2	NA	3 weeks	N/A
Pfizer-BioNTech	≥12 years	2	1	3-8 weeks**	≥5 months
Moderna	≥18 years	2	1	4-8 weeks**	≥5 months
Janssen	≥18 years	1	1	NA	≥2 months

*For the vaccination schedule for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, see [Table 3](#).

An **8-week interval may be optimal for people ages 12 years through 64 years, and especially for males ages 12 through 39 years, who are not moderately or severely immunocompromised. A **shorter interval** (3 weeks for Pfizer-BioNTech; 4 weeks for Moderna) between the first and second dose remains the recommended interval for: people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised; adults ages 65 years and older; and others who need early protection due to increased concern about community transmission or risk of severe disease.