

Health Advisory

Updated Guidance: Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccines January 10, 2022

SUMMARY POINTS

- Children aged 12-17 may now receive a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine **at least 5 months** after receiving their second dose.
- People aged ≥ 18 who received the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine should receive an mRNA booster dose **at least 5 months** after receiving their second dose.
- People who received a single dose Janssen primary series should receive an mRNA booster dose **at least 2 months** after receiving their vaccine.
- Moderately to severely immunocompromised children ages 5 – 11 should receive a third dose of the pediatric Pfizer vaccine (**orange cap**), **at least 28 days** after completing the primary series.

Ongoing data continues to support that COVID-19 vaccinations provide protection against infection, severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

Per CDC, COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are 7–11 times higher in unvaccinated adolescents, compared to vaccinated adolescents. Vaccine effectiveness in adolescents 12–15 years of age remains high but may wane over time.

The mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) are preferred over the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine for people aged ≥ 18 . Janssen COVID-19 vaccine may continue to be offered to those who would prefer it over an mRNA vaccine, have a contraindication to an mRNA vaccine, or have difficulty accessing an mRNA vaccine.

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose Guidance

- Adolescents ages 12-17 who received a primary vaccines series of Pfizer-BioNTech should receive a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine **at least 5 months** after receiving their second dose.
- People ages ≥ 18 who received the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine should receive an mRNA booster dose **at least 5 months** after receiving their second dose.
- People who received a single dose Janssen primary series should receive an mRNA booster dose **at least 2 months** after receiving their vaccine.
- Heterologous or “mix and match” dosing is acceptable **for booster doses only** for individuals **over 18**. It should not be considered for the primary vaccine series or additional doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for moderately to severely immunocompromised persons.

Additional Vaccine Doses for Immunocompromised Children and Adolescents

- Moderately to severely immunocompromised children ages 5 – 11 should receive an additional (third) dose of the pediatric Pfizer vaccine (**orange cap**), **at least 28 days** after completing the primary series.
- Moderately to severely immunocompromised adolescents and adults ages ≥ 12 , should receive an additional (third) dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (**purple or gray cap**) **at least 28 days** after receiving the second dose of a Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.
- Moderately to severely immunocompromised adolescents and adults ages ≥ 18 , should receive an additional (third) dose of the Moderna vaccine **at least 28 days** after receiving the second dose of a Moderna vaccine series.
- A single booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech (30 mcg in 0.3 mL) should be administered to moderately to severely immunocompromised adolescents and adults aged ≥ 12 **at least 5 months** after completion of the additional (third) vaccine dose. A single booster dose of the Moderna (50 mcg in 0.25 mL) COVID-19 vaccine should be administered to moderately to severely compromised persons aged ≥ 18 **at least 5 months** after completion of the additional (third) dose.

Individuals Who Received a Non-FDA Authorized/ Approved COVID-19 Vaccine Internationally or In a Clinical Trial

The CDC issues Emergency Use Instructions (EUI) to allow the use of primary and booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech in certain individuals who received primary vaccination with certain non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines.

- People 12 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and who received their primary vaccination with certain non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines **at least 28 days ago** can receive an additional primary dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech.
- People 12 years and older who received an incomplete primary dose series (only the first dose of a 2-dose primary series) with certain non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines **at least 28 days ago** can receive a primary dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech, after which they are considered fully vaccinated.
- People 12 years and older who received their primary vaccination with certain non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines **at least 5 months ago** can receive a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech.

Resources:

- [CDC Recommends Pfizer Booster at 5 Months, Additional Primary Dose for Certain Immunocompromised Children](#)
- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)
- [PowerPoint Presentation \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Takes Multiple Actions to Expand Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine | FDA](#)