

Health Advisory
COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines Authorized for Children 6 months and older
June 28, 2022

SUMMARY POINTS

- On June 17, 2022, the CDC recommended COVID-19 mRNA vaccines for children 6 months and older.
- COVID-19 vaccine may be given concurrently with any other recommended vaccine such as the flu shot or regular childhood vaccinations.
- Additional primary doses are recommended for those children who are moderately to severely immunocompromised and received the Moderna vaccine. There is no additional primary dose recommended for those who receive the Pfizer vaccine.
- A booster shot is currently not authorized for children between 6 months through 4 years old with either mRNA vaccine.

Ongoing data continues to support vaccinations to prevent severe outcomes of COVID-19, such as hospitalization and death. The FDA authorized and CDC recommends COVID-19 mRNA vaccines for children 6 months and older.

- **Pfizer-BioNTech for individuals 6 months through 4 years of age** is a three-dose primary series (3 micrograms each). Children in this age group should receive first and second doses of Pfizer-BioNTech 3-8 weeks apart, followed by the third dose administered at least 8 weeks after the second dose.
- **Moderna for individuals 6 months through 5 years of age** is two doses (25 micrograms each) administered 4-8 weeks apart.
- There is no booster dose authorized for those under 5 years of age.

Moderna recipients aged 6 months through 5 years who are moderately to severely immunocompromised are authorized to receive an additional primary dose (three doses total). However, Pfizer-BioNTech recipients aged 6 months through 4 years are not authorized to receive an additional primary dose. Pfizer-BioNTech recipients aged 6 months through 4 years will receive three total doses regardless of their immune status.

Common side effects seen in clinical trials were injection site pain/swelling/redness, swelling/tenderness of lymph nodes in the same arm (or thigh) as the injection, irritability/crying, fatigue, headache, muscle ache, chills, nausea/vomiting, and loss of appetite.

COVID-19 vaccine may be given concurrently with any other recommended vaccine such as the flu shot or regular childhood vaccinations. There is no contraindication to simultaneous administration of the COVID vaccine with any other routinely recommended vaccine.

Please review the “Transitioning from a younger to older age group” section from [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States](#) for information about the options for dosing when a child will transition from a younger to older age group during the course of their vaccination.

Children between 6 months through 4 years who received two different mRNA products for the first 2 doses of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series should follow a 3-dose schedule. The third dose of either mRNA vaccine should be administered at least 8 weeks after the second dose to complete the 3-dose primary series.

Resources:

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Authorizes Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccines for Children Down to 6 Months of Age](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations for Children and Teens](#)
- [FACT SHEET FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS ADMINISTERING VACCINE \(VACCINATION PROVIDERS\): MODERNA 6 MONTHS THROUGH 5 YEARS OF AGE](#)
- [FACT SHEET FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS ADMINISTERING VACCINE: PFIZER BIONTECH](#)
- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States](#)