

Updated interval for mRNA primary series

On Feb. 22, 2022, the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its COVID-19 vaccination guidance with additional information to help vaccine providers determine the optimal interval between the first and second dose of an mRNA vaccine series, based on the individual patient.

The updated recommendation allows for people 12 through 64 years of age, particularly males 12 through 39 years, to receive their second mRNA COVID-19 (Pfizer and Moderna) primary series dose up to 8 weeks after their first dose. This new recommendation is based on the latest safety and effectiveness data, **CDC: Myocarditis and COVID-19 Vaccine Intervals: International Data and Policies (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2022-02-04/11-COVID-Moullia-508.pdf)**. Extending the time interval between primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine doses to 8 weeks may help lower the (small) risk of myocarditis and pericarditis, which has been associated mostly among adolescent and young adult males with mRNA COVID-19 vaccination. It may also help increase how long protection lasts against COVID-19.

However, this update does not apply to everyone. Providers should continue to recommend the 3-week or 4-week intervals for Pfizer and Moderna products respectively for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, adults 65 years and older, and others who may need early protection due to concern about an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 or high levels of community transmission.

This updated guidance is specific to the mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine primary series and is only for patients who have not yet started their series or who haven't yet received their second dose. The interval between COVID-19 mRNA vaccine doses is best determined by considering the balance of risks and benefits, based on the person's age and health conditions.

For additional details, including updated vaccination tables, refer to the **CDC: Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines: Primary series (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html)**.

Update on Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for people under 5 years

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Vaccine and Related Biologics Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) has postponed their Feb. 15 meeting where they were prepared to discuss Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for children 6 months through 4 years. The VRBPAC meeting will be scheduled once there is additional data on a third dose in this age group and sufficient time to review the data. For more information, refer to the FDA's press announcement: **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Postpones Advisory Committee Meeting to Discuss Request for Authorization of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 6 Months Through 4 Years of Age (www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-postpones-advisory-committee-meeting-discuss-request-authorization)**.

For those who placed pre-orders for this vaccine this week, your

order will not be processed and vaccine will not be shipped to you at this time.

ACIP recommends Moderna's Spikevax (COVID-19 vaccine)

On Feb. 4, 2022, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend the FDA-approved Moderna's Spikevax (COVID-19 vaccine) in people 18 years and older for the two-dose primary series. Moderna's COVID-19 mRNA vaccine continues to be available under emergency use authorization (EUA) and ACIP recommendation as an additional dose for immunocompromised people and a booster dose. Spikevax and the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine use for EUA have the same formulation and can be used interchangeably.

Read more in news releases at FDA: **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Takes Key Action by Approving Second COVID-19 Vaccine and CDC Statement Following ACIP Moderna Vote (www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/acip-moderna-vote.html)**.

MIIC Client Follow-Up Training Video Updated

The MIIC Client Follow-Up training video has been updated to include information on the new COVID-19 Doses Report. MIIC users can run this report to get a detailed list of people due or overdue for the COVID-19 vaccine and boosters. This video includes information on creating a Client Follow-Up cohort, managing follow-up, and creating outputs. This video can be found on the **MIIC User Guidance and Training Resources page (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/index.html)** under Population-Based Tools and Reports.

Promote HPV vaccination during International HPV Awareness Day on March 4

International Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Awareness Day will be observed on March 4, 2022 and promotes the importance of preventing HPV-related cancers with public health tools like vaccination. Early prevention through vaccination can help prevent HPV infections that could lead to six types of cancer. Please join the Minnesota Department of Health along with other national partners in sharing important messages about preventing HPV cancers through vaccination. Check out the **International HPV Awareness Day Toolkit (www.immunizationmanagers.org/resources/international-hpv-awareness-day-toolkit)** put together by the Association of Immunization Managers and the National HPV Vaccination Roundtable for social media messages and resources to promote.

MDH encourages health care providers to reach out to families to schedule appointments for routine vaccination, including HPV vaccine. For more information on strategies for improving HPV vaccination rates, visit **For Health Care Providers Serving Adolescents (www.wevaxteens.org)**.