

Guide to COVID-19 Vaccination Schedules



APhA COVID-19 RESOURCES:
KNOW THE FACTS

This resource summarizes key information about COVID-19 vaccine products. Reference CDC's COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations Infographics for [people without immunocompromise](#) and [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#) for detailed dispensing information.

Table 1: FDA Authorized COVID-19 Vaccines

	Moderna, bivalent Spikevax		Pfizer-BioNTech, bivalent Comirnaty			Novavax, adjuvanted
EUA	Fact Sheet		Fact Sheet			Fact Sheet
Vial cap color	Dark Blue	Dark Pink	Maroon	Orange	Gray	Royal Blue
Label color	Gray	Yellow	Maroon	Orange	Gray	No color
Dosage	0.25 mL (25 mcg) for 6 months – 4 years, 5*–11 years years 0.5 mL (50 mcg) for ≥ 12 years	0.2 mL (10 mcg) for 6 months – 5 years	0.2 mL (3 mcg) for 6 months – 4 [†] years)	0.2 mL (10 mcg) for 5 years, 6 – 11 years	0.3 mL (30 mcg) for ≥ 12 years	Primary: 0.5 mL (5 mcg rS/50 mcg Matrix-M) for ≥ 12 years Booster [‡] : 0.5 mL (5 mcg rS/50 mcg Matrix-M) for ≥ 18 years
Doses per vial	10 doses if 0.25 mL (25 mcg) or 5 doses if 0.5mL (50 mcg)	2	10	10	Multi-dose: 6 doses or single dose	Two multi-dose options available: either 5 doses or 10 doses
Dilution required	No		Yes (2.2 mL 0.9% NaCl)	Yes (1.3 mL 0.9% NaCl)	No	No
Storage	Freezer until expiration date; Refrigerator for 30 days (provided expiration date is not exceeded); Room temperature for 24 hours		Ultra-cold freezer until the expiration date (expires 18 months after the manufacture date on the vial); Refrigerator up to 10 weeks; Room temperature up to 12 hours			Do not freeze; Refrigerator until expiration date; Room temperature for 6 hours
Thaw time required	Refrigerator for 2 hours followed by 15 minutes at room temperature; OR room temperature for 45 minutes. Amount of time needed to thaw varies based on the temperature and number of vials.	Refrigerator for 45 minutes followed by 15 minutes at room temperature; OR room temperature for 15 minutes. Amount of time needed to thaw varies based on the temperature and number of vials.	Refrigerator for 2 hours Or Room temperature 30 minutes. Amount of time needed to thaw varies based on the temperature and number of vials.	Refrigerator for 4 hours Or Room temperature 30 minutes. Amount of time needed to thaw varies based on the temperature and number of vials.	Refrigerator for 6 hours for multi-dose vial; refrigerator 2 hours for single dose vial; Room temperature 30 minutes. Amount of time needed to thaw varies based on the temperature and number of vials.	N/A
Beyond-use date	12 hours after first puncture	8 hours after first puncture	12 hours after first puncture			6 hours after first puncture

* Children who transition from age 5 years to 6 years during the Moderna vaccination series should receive 2 doses of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine (0.25 mL [25 mcg]; dark blue cap and label with a gray border).

† FDA EUA requires that children who transition from age 4 years to 5 years during the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series receive the 0.2 mL (3 mcg) dosage (maroon cap and label with a maroon border) for all doses.

‡ Novavax authorized as a first booster dose for those age 18 years and older whom an mRNA bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is not accessible or clinically appropriate or those who elect to receive Novavax because they would not otherwise receive a booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.



COVID-19 Vaccine Schedules and Guidance: Key Concepts

The CDC's current COVID-19 Immunization Schedule based on age are found [here](#). Key concepts listed below have been compiled for ease of reference.

1. COVID-19 vaccines may be administered without regard to timing of other vaccines. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines on the same day.
2. Comirnaty (Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine) and Spikevax (Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine) are supplied as different products based on similar spike protein mRNA formulations. The dilution requirements and recommended use differs for each product. It is important to adhere to the recommended product options and use for each age group.
3. Persons with a recent SARS-CoV-2 infection may consider delaying a vaccine dose by 3 months from symptom onset or positive test (if infection was asymptomatic).
4. An 8-week interval in the primary series **may** be optimal for some people ages 6 months and older, and especially for males ages 12 through 39 years, who are not moderately or severely immunocompromised, and for whom there is not increased concern about community transmission or severe disease.
5. Individuals aged ≥ 18 years **may** choose which bivalent vaccine they receive as a booster dose.
6. For people who previously received one or more monovalent booster doses, the bivalent booster dose is administered at least 2 months after the last monovalent booster dose.
7. People ages 18 years and older who completed primary vaccination using any COVID-19 vaccine and have not received any previous booster dose(s) may receive a monovalent Novavax booster dose at least 6 months after completion of the primary series if they are unable to receive an mRNA vaccine (i.e., mRNA vaccine contraindicated or not available) or unwilling to receive an mRNA vaccine and would otherwise not receive a booster dose.
8. Children ages 6 months to 4 years old who previously received 3 monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech primary series doses are authorized to receive 1 bivalent Pfizer-BioNTech booster dose at least 2 months after completion of the primary series.
9. The monovalent formulations of the two mRNA COVID-19 vaccines Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine should no longer be used for COVID-19 vaccination.
10. Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine is no longer available in the U.S. All remaining U.S. government stock of Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine expired May 7, 2023. Dispose of any remaining Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.
11. People ages 18 years and older who received 1 or 2 Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine dose are recommended to receive 1 bivalent mRNA (Spikevax or Comirnaty) at least 2 months after completion of the previous dose.

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