

# Guide to COVID-19 Vaccination Schedules



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This resource summarizes key information about COVID-19 vaccination schedules. Reference CDC's [Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) for detailed information and recommendations.

**Table 1: FDA authorized Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines**

	Monovalent			Bivalent		
Authorized for ages	6 months – 4 years	5 – 11 years	12 years and older	6 months – 4 years	5 – 11 years	12 years and older
<b>EUA</b>	<a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>	<a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>	<a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>	<a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>	<a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>	<a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>
<b>Vial cap color</b>	Maroon	Orange	Gray	Maroon	Orange	Gray
<b>Label border color</b>	Maroon	Orange	Gray	Maroon	Orange	Gray
<b>Primary dose</b>	3 mcg (0.2 mL)	10 mcg (0.2 mL)	30 mcg (0.3 mL)	3 mcg (0.2 mL)	N/A	N/A
<b>Booster dose</b>	N/A	10 mcg (0.2 mL)	N/A	3 mcg (0.2 mL)	10 mcg (0.2 mL)	30 mcg (0.3 mL)
<b>Doses per vial</b>	10	10	6	10	10	Multi-dose: 6 or Single-dose
<b>Dilution required</b>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Storage</b>	Ultra-cold freezer for up to 18 months from date of manufacture; Refrigerator up to 10 weeks; Room temperature up to 12 hours			Ultra-cold freezer for up to 18 months from date of manufacture; Refrigerator up to 10 weeks; Room temperature up to 12 hours		
<b>Thaw time required</b>	Refrigerator 2 hours; Room temperature 30 minutes	Refrigerator 4 hours; Room temperature 30 minutes	Refrigerator 6 hours; Room temperature 30 minutes	Refrigerator 2 hours; Room temperature 30 minutes	Refrigerator 4 hours; Room temperature 30 minutes	Refrigerator 6 hours; Room temperature 30 minutes
<b>Beyond-use date</b>	12 hours after puncture			12 hours after puncture		



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**Table 2: FDA authorized Moderna COVID-19 vaccines**

	Monovalent			Bivalent		
Authorized for ages	6 months – 5 years	6 – 11 years	12 years and older	6 months – 5 years	6 – 11 years	12 years and older
<b>EUA</b>	<a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>	<a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>	<a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>	<a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>	<a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>	
<b>Vial cap color</b>	Dark blue	Dark blue	Red	Dark pink	Dark blue	
<b>Label border color</b>	Magenta	Purple*	Light blue	Yellow	Gray	
<b>Primary dose</b>	25 mcg (0.25 mL)	50 mcg (0.5 mL)	100 mcg (0.5 mL)	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Booster dose</b>	N/A			10 mcg (0.2 mL)	25 mcg (0.25 mL)	50 mcg (0.5 mL)
<b>Doses per vial</b>	10	5	5.5 mL: 10-11 OR 7.5 mL: 13-15	2	10	5
<b>Dilution required</b>	No			No		
<b>Storage</b>	Freezer until expiration date; Refrigerator for 30 days; Room temperature for 24 hours			Freezer until expiration date; Refrigerator for 30 days; Room temperature for 24 hours		
<b>Thaw time required</b>	Refrigerator for 2 hours followed by 15 minutes at room temperature; OR room temperature for 45 minutes	Refrigerator for 2 hours followed by 15 minutes at room temperature; OR room temperature for 45 minutes	<b>5.5 mL vial:</b> Refrigerator for 2 hours and 30 minutes followed by 15 minutes at room temperature; OR room temperature for 1 hour <b>7.5 mL vial:</b> Refrigerator for 3 hours followed by 15 minutes at room temperature; OR room temperature for 1 hour and 30 minutes	Refrigerator for 45 minutes followed by 15 minutes at room temperature; OR room temperature for 15 minutes	Refrigerator for 2 hours followed by 15 minutes at room temperature; OR room temperature for 45 minutes	
<b>Beyond-use date</b>	12 hours after puncture			8 hours after puncture	12 hours after puncture	

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**Table 3: FDA authorized Novavax COVID-19 vaccine**

Authorized for ages	12 years and older
<b>EUA</b>	<a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>
<b>Vial cap color</b>	Royal blue
<b>Label border color</b>	No color
<b>Dilution required</b>	No
<b>Primary dose</b>	5 mcg rS/50 mcg Matrix-M (0.5 mL)
<b>Booster dose</b>	≥18 years only: 5 mcg rS/ 50 mcg Matrix-M (0.5 mL)*
<b>Storage</b>	Do not freeze; Refrigerator until expiration date; Room temperature for 6 hours
<b>Thaw time required</b>	N/A
<b>Beyond-use date</b>	6 hours after puncture

**Table 4: FDA authorized Janssen COVID-19 vaccine**

Authorized for ages	18 years and older
<b>EUA</b>	<a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>
<b>Vial cap color</b>	Light Blue
<b>Label border color</b>	No color
<b>Dilution required</b>	No
<b>Primary dose</b>	5x10 <sup>10</sup> viral particles (0.5 mL)
<b>Booster dose</b>	5x10 <sup>10</sup> viral particles (0.5 mL)
<b>Storage</b>	Do not freeze; Refrigerator until expiration date; Room temperature for 12 hours
<b>Thaw time required</b>	If vaccine is still frozen upon receipt, thaw in refrigerator for later use; Thaw at room temperature for 1 hour for immediate use
<b>Beyond-use date</b>	Refrigerator for 6 hours after puncture; OR room temperature for 2 hours after puncture

\*See key concept 9.



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## COVID-19 vaccination schedules: key concepts

The following diagrams summarize the current COVID-19 vaccination schedules based on age (diagram 1 and 3) and based on age for people who are [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#) (diagram 2 and 4). When using the diagrams below, reference the tables (above) for the appropriate dose based on the product and the indication (primary or booster dose). The key concepts listed below have been compiled for ease of reference.

1. All time intervals listed in the diagram below indicate the **minimum time interval between doses**.
2. 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.
3. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine are supplied as different products containing the same vaccine formulation. 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.
4. Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Novavax COVID-19 Vaccines are preferentially recommended in most situations compared to Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 Vaccine; the Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 Vaccine may be considered in some situations.
5. The **same vaccine product** should be used for all doses of the primary series, if possible. Exceptions and guidance for special circumstances, including managing age transitions, is available.
6. Persons with a recent SARS-CoV-2 infection may consider delaying a primary series or booster dose by 3 months from symptom onset or positive test (if infection was asymptomatic).
7. 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.
8. Individuals aged  $\geq 18$  years **may** choose which bivalent vaccine they receive as a booster dose.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.

*Disclaimer: Information related to the COVID-19 pandemic is changing rapidly and continuously. The material and information contained in this publication is believed to be current as of the date included on this document. The American Pharmacists Association assumes no responsibility for the accuracy, timeliness, errors or omission contained herein. Links to any sources do not constitute any endorsement of, validity, or warranty of the information contained on any site. The user of these materials should not under any circumstances solely rely on, or act based on this publication. Pharmacy professionals retain the responsibility for using their own professional judgment and practicing in accordance with all rules, regulations, and laws governing the pharmacy practice within their jurisdiction.*

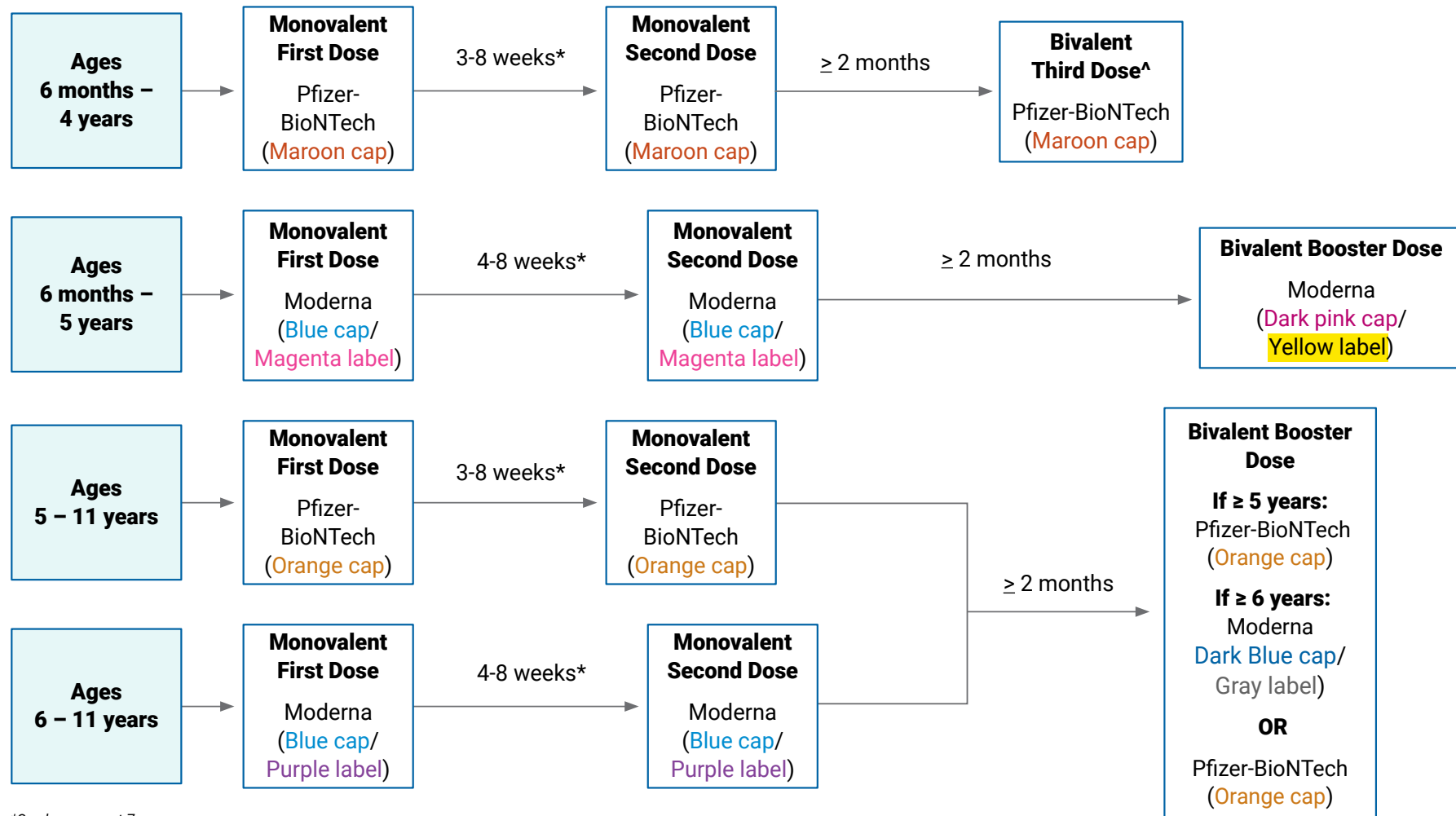


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**Diagram 1: Most adolescents and children 6 months through 11 years**



\*See key concept 7.

\*See key concept 11.

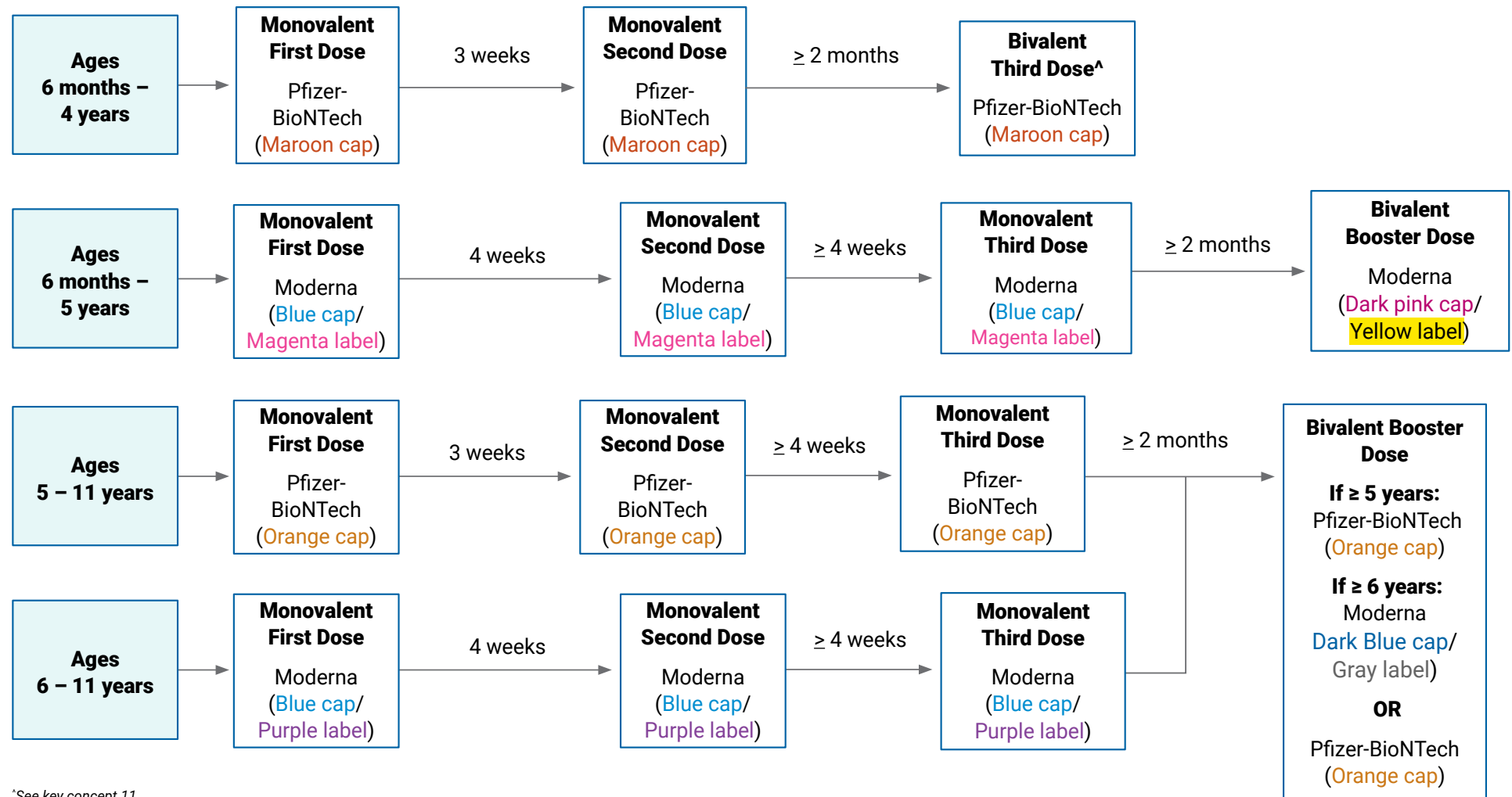


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**Diagram 2: Adolescents and children 6 months through 11 years with moderate to severe immunocompromise**



<sup>a</sup>See key concept 11.

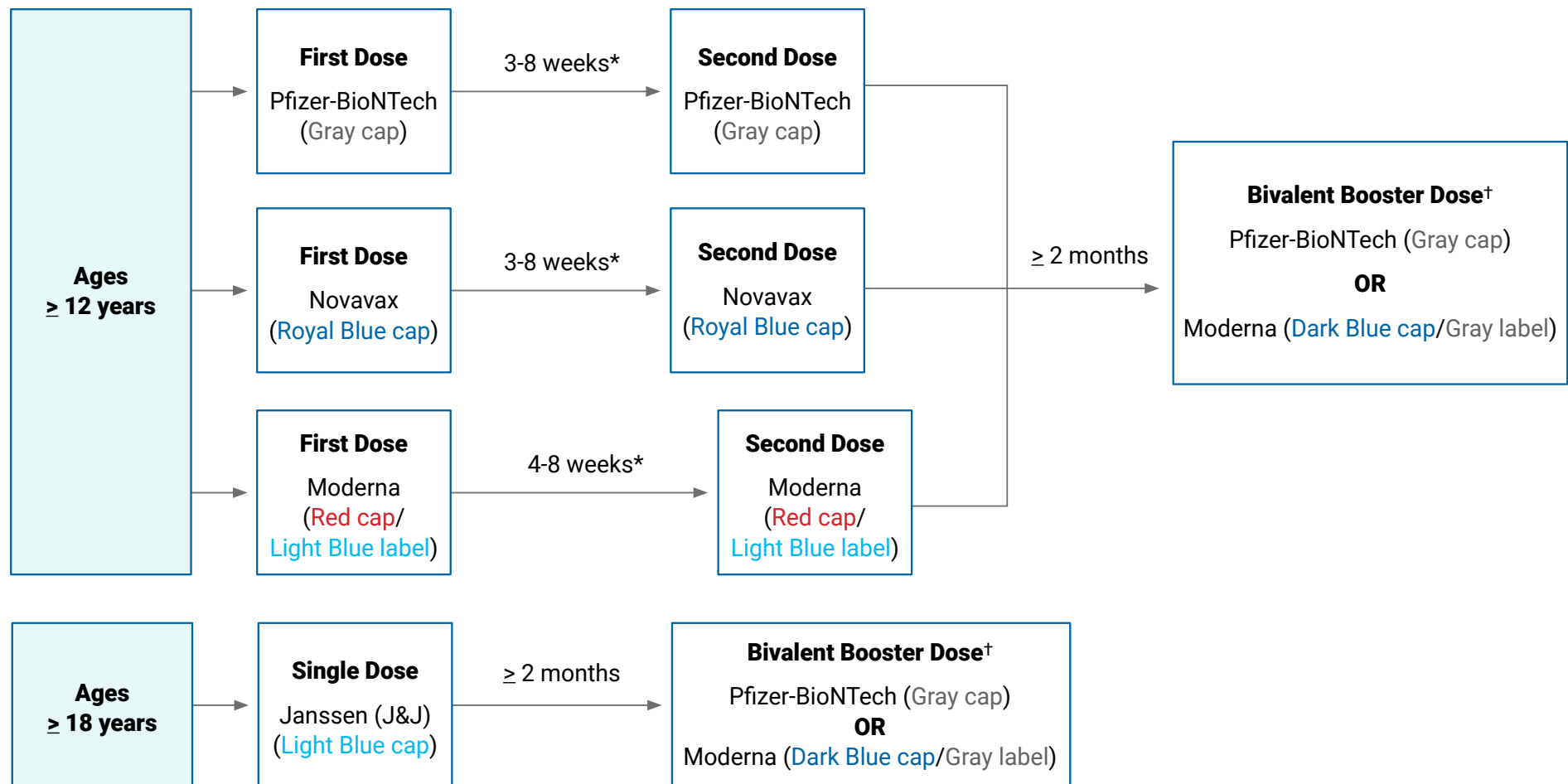


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**Diagram 3: Most people 12 years and older**



\*See key concept 7.

†See key concept 10.

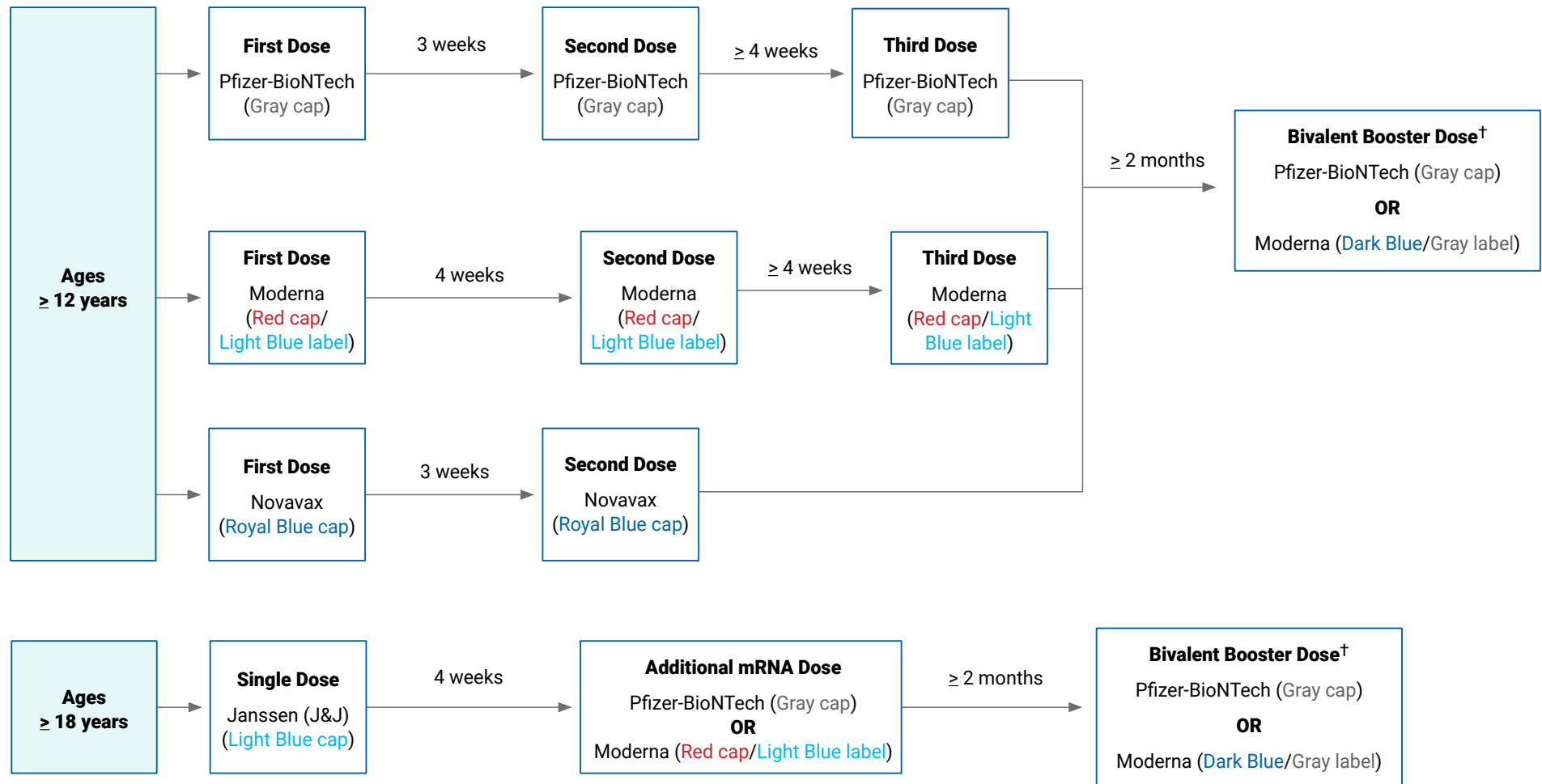


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**Diagram 4: People 12 years and older with moderate to severe immunocompromise**



<sup>†</sup>See key concept 10.

