

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
EUA	Fact Sheet	Fact Sheet	Fact Sheet	Fact Sheet	Fact Sheet	Fact Sheet
Vial cap color	Maroon	Orange	Gray	Maroon	Orange	Gray
Label border color	Maroon	Orange	Gray	Maroon	Orange	Gray
Primary dose	3 mcg (0.2 mL)	10 mcg (0.2 mL)	30 mcg (0.3 mL)	N/A		
Booster dose	N/A	10 mcg (0.2 mL)	N/A	3 mcg (0.2 mL)	10 mcg (0.2 mL)	30 mcg (0.3 mL)
Doses per vial	10	10	6	10	10	Multi-dose: 6 or Single-dose
Dilution required	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Storage	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		
Thaw time required	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
Beyond-use date	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
EUA	Fact Sheet	Fact Sheet	Fact Sheet	Fact Sheet	Fact Sheet	
Vial cap color	Dark blue	Dark blue	Red	Dark pink	Dark blue	
Label border color	Magenta	Purple*	Light blue	Yellow	Gray	
Primary dose	25 mcg (0.25 mL)	50 mcg (0.5 mL)	100 mcg (0.5 mL)	N/A		
Booster dose	N/A			10 mcg (0.2 mL)	25 mcg (0.25 mL)	50 mcg (0.5 mL)
Doses per vial	10	5	5.5 mL: 10-11 OR 7.5 mL: 13-15	2	10	5
Dilution required	No			No		
Storage	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		
Thaw time required	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	5.5 mL vial: Refrigerator for 2 hours and 30 minutes followed by 15 minutes at room temperature; OR room temperature for 1 hour 7.5 mL vial: 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	
Beyond-use date	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
EUA	Fact Sheet
Vial cap color	Royal blue
Label border color	No color
Dilution required	No
Primary dose	5 mcg rS/50 mcg Matrix-M (0.5 mL)
Booster dose	≥18 years only: 5 mcg rS/ 50 mcg Matrix-M (0.5 mL)*
Storage	Do not freeze; Refrigerator until expiration date; Room temperature for 6 hours
Thaw time required	N/A
Beyond-use date	6 hours after puncture

Table 4: FDA authorized Janssen COVID-19 vaccine

Authorized for ages	18 years and older
EUA	Fact Sheet
Vial cap color	Light Blue
Label border color	No color
Dilution required	No
Primary dose	5x10 ¹⁰ viral particles (0.5 mL)
Booster dose	5x10 ¹⁰ viral particles (0.5 mL)
Storage	Do not freeze; Refrigerator until expiration date; Room temperature for 12 hours
Thaw time required	If vaccine is still frozen upon receipt, thaw in refrigerator for later use; Thaw at room temperature for 1 hour for immediate use
Beyond-use date	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). Comprehensive [guidance on timing, spacing, and interchangeability](#) is available. 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 ≥ 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.

***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.*

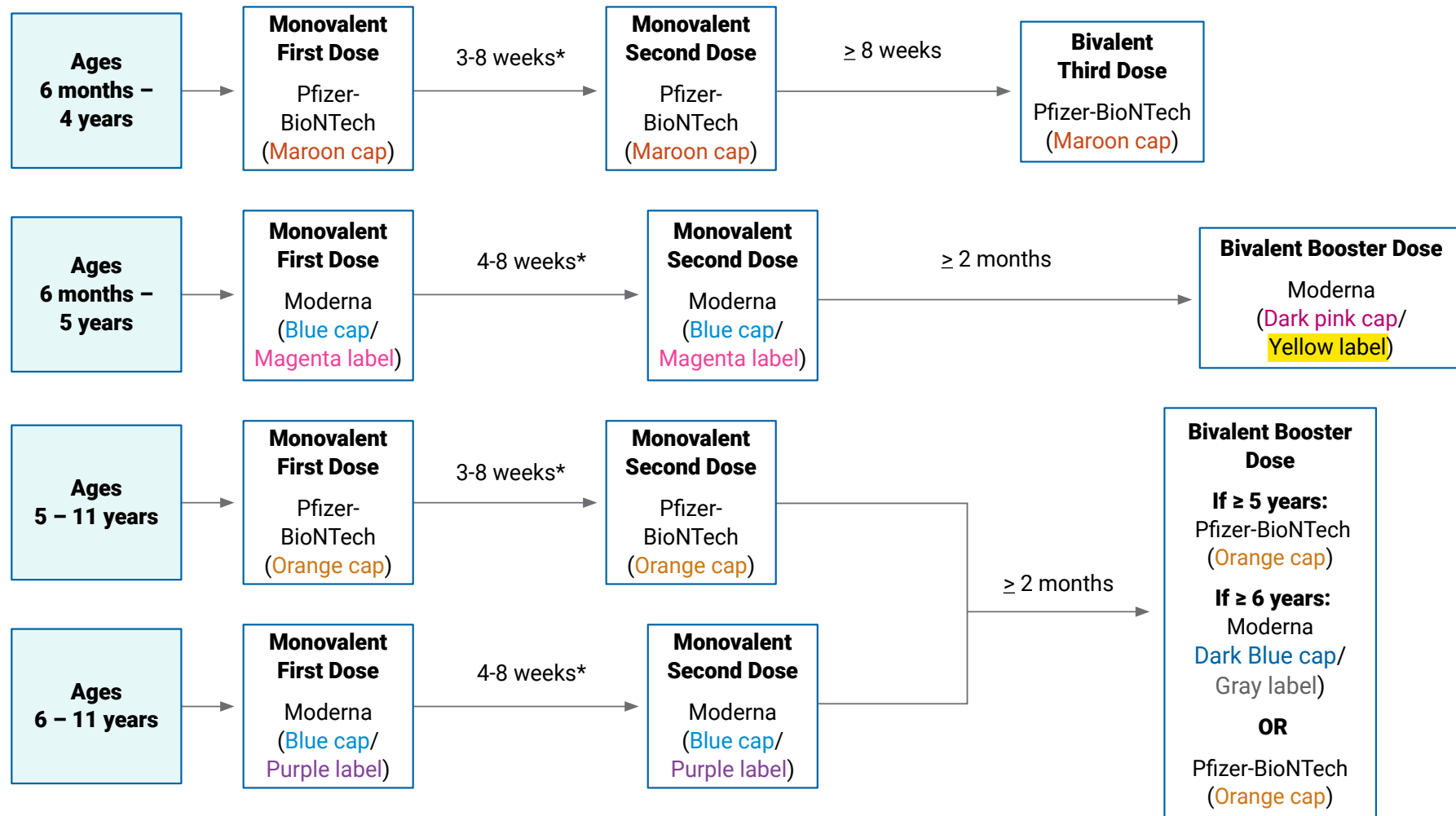


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Diagram 1: Most adolescents and children 6 months through 11 years



*See key concept 7.

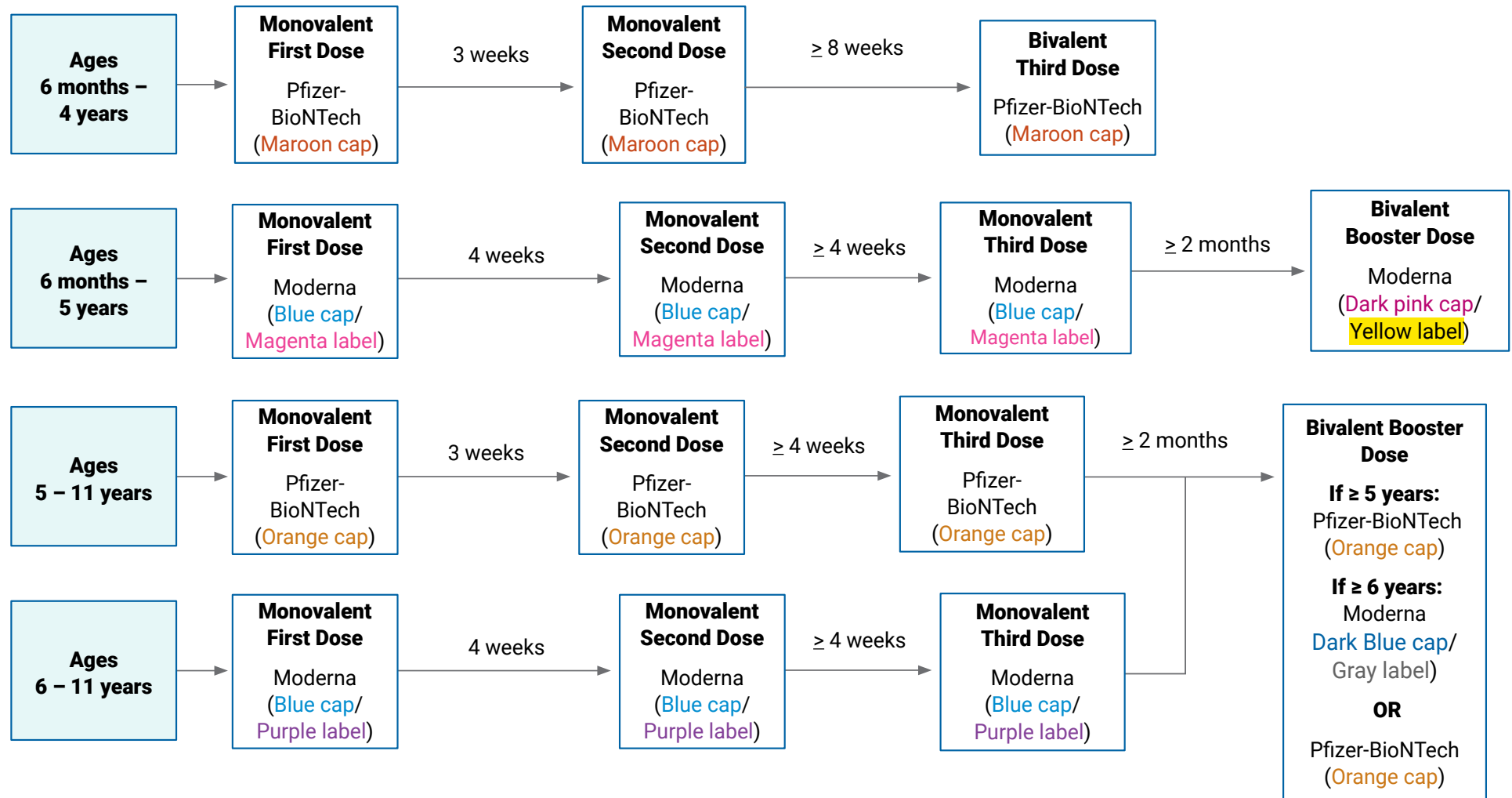


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Diagram 2: Adolescents and children 6 months through 11 years with moderate to severe immunocompromise

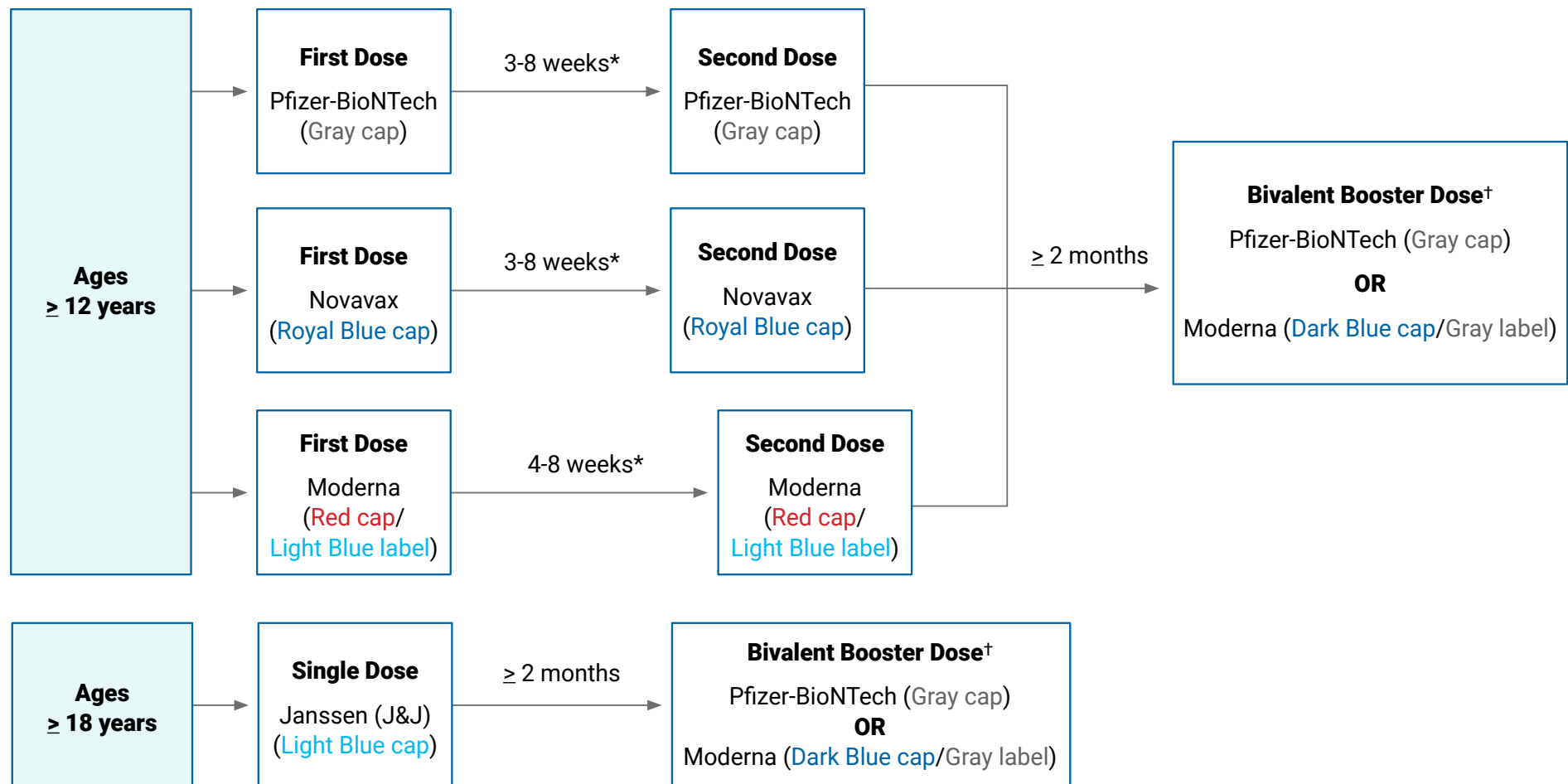


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Diagram 3: Most people 12 years and older



*See key concept 7.

[†]See key concept 10.

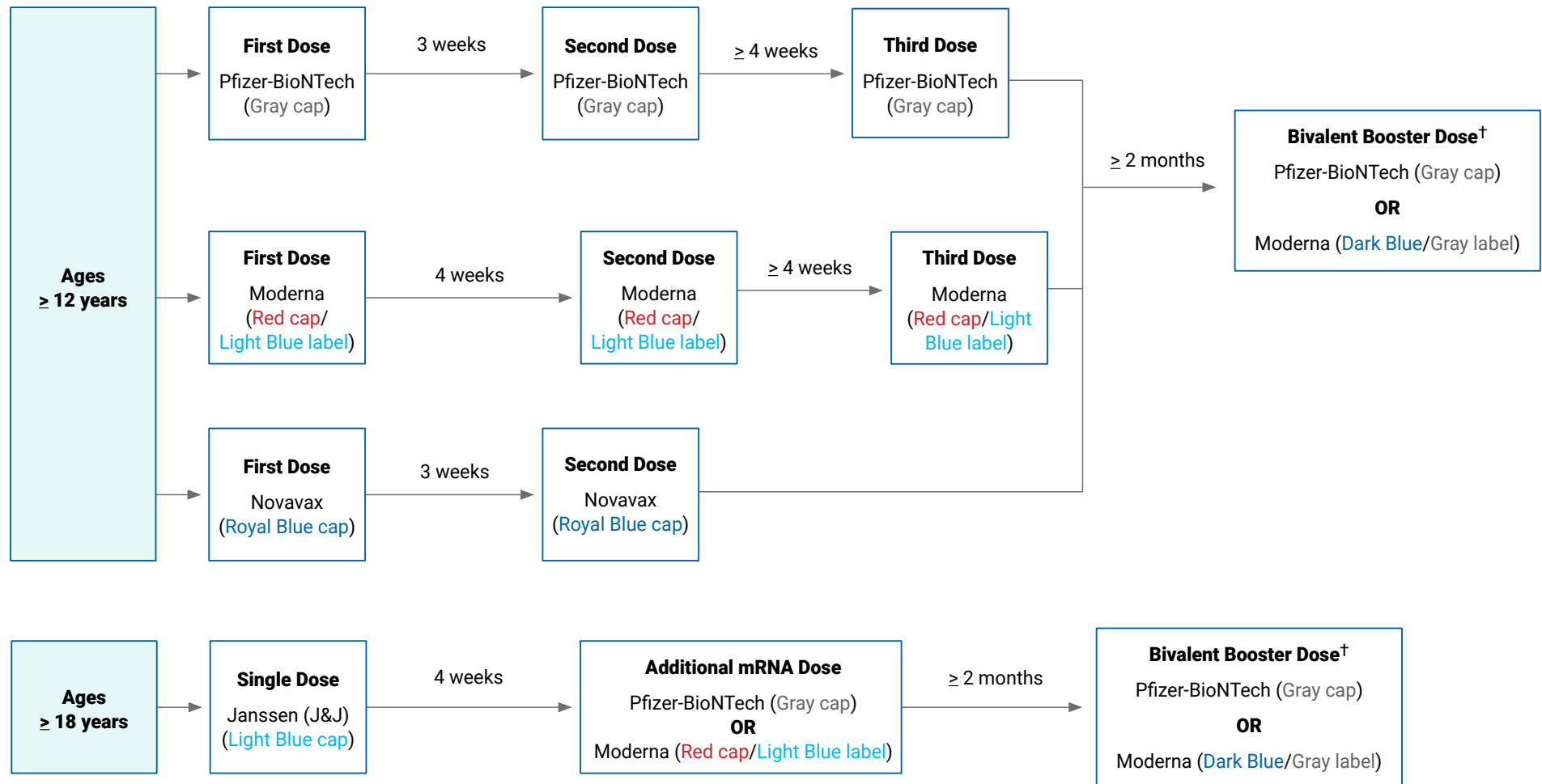


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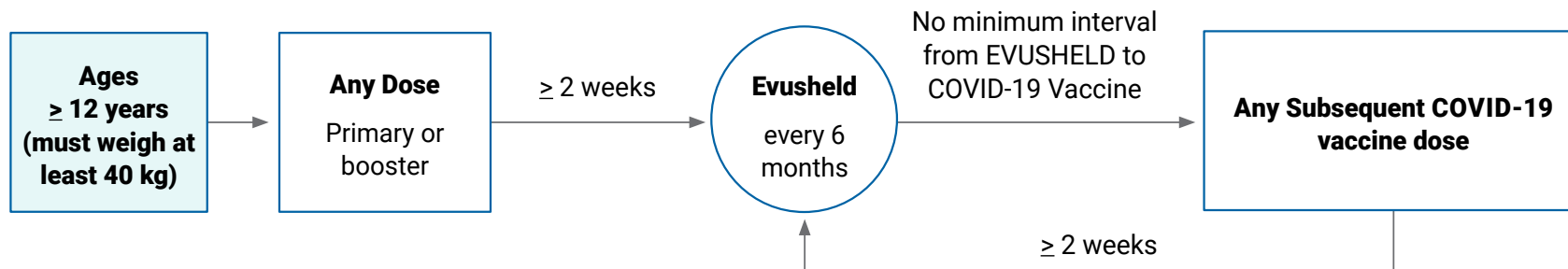
Diagram 4: People 12 years and older with moderate to severe immunocompromise



[†]See key concept 10.



Diagram 5: Monoclonal antibodies (EVUSHELD) for COVID-19 pre-exposure prophylaxis



In addition to the recommended COVID-19 vaccination schedule, tixagevimab/cilgavimab (EVUSHELD), a combination of two monoclonal antibodies, should be administered to people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised every 6 months for pre-exposure prophylaxis to supplement vaccination. Reference CDC's [guidance](#) and current [treatment guidelines](#) for more information on the use of EVUSHELD.