

### Second dose scheduling policy

All providers are expected to ensure that patients to whom they administer a first dose of a COVID-19 Pfizer or Moderna vaccines receive their second dose on schedule (at 21 or 28 days, respectively) – or as close to this schedule as possible.

#### In service of the policy, providers are expected to:

- Schedule the second dose during the first dose appointment** (or, alternative, schedule both first and second dose appointment together at the same time).
- Conduct proactive outreach for second doses** – including email, text, and phone calls – to those who will become due who do not yet have an appointment scheduled and to those who are overdue

#### The rationale for this policy is several-fold:

- This is in line with CDC guidelines and the schedule that was tested during the clinical trials. The [CDC Clinical Considerations](#) state, “the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines should be administered as close to the recommended interval as possible.”
- The longer the interval, the more likely someone will be lost to follow-up.
- Shipments and inventory in the Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Program are aligned to the 21- and 28-day intervals. Second doses arrive automatically in advance of the 21<sup>st</sup> day and the 28<sup>th</sup> day. Not completing courses on schedule makes it difficult to effectively manage first and second dose inventory.

#### Throughput implications:

It is recognized that the scheduling of second doses can be time consuming. Providers should take this into account when considering and calculating maximum throughput. A desire to increase throughput and speed of administration is not a sufficient justification for not scheduling second doses during the time of the first dose appointment.

#### Considerations for VAMS clinics:

VAMS now makes it possible for the clinic to directly schedule an individual in for their second dose appointment: [please click here for instructions.](#)

#### Using CT WiZ's Reminder Recall feature:

All clinics can use CT WiZ to run a report of individuals who are overdue for second doses. The report excludes patients who received a second dose at a different clinic. Click [here](#) for directions on how to run this report in CT WiZ.