Second dose scheduling policy

All providers are expected to ensure that patients to whom they administer a first dose of a 2 COVID-19 dose series (currently 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.

• Order the total number of the doses you will need to support on-time vaccination of patients (second dose orders will NOT be placed automatically after April 27).

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.

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.

Second dose scheduling in VAMS clinics:

VAMS now makes it possible for the clinic to directly schedule an individual in for their second dose appointment. Click here for the VAMS Training Webpage to access trainings on second dose scheduling under ‘Quick Tips’ and ‘Desk Guides/Presentations’.

Using CT WiZ’s Reminder Recall reports:

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 Reminder/Recall report in CT WiZ.