

**From:** noreply-dphimmunizations@ct.gov <noreply@everbridge.net>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2022 2:55 PM

**Subject:** CDC Updates COVID-19 Vaccination Interval Guidance -- with correction to the table



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### February 23, 2022

*This communication is being sent to all key contacts at provider organizations administering COVID-19 vaccine— please read this message in its entirety. Please feel free to share it with others in your organization who may benefit from the update. Note that all our communications are archived on our web site.*

Dear Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

Yesterday, CDC updated its [COVID-19 vaccination guidance](#) for individuals 12 to 64 years of age lengthening the interval between the first and second dose of an mRNA vaccine series to 8 weeks, based on the individual patient. These additional considerations followed a thorough evaluation of the latest safety and effectiveness data.

### The COVID-19 vaccination primary series schedule for healthy individuals, with updates highlighted:

Primary series vaccine manufacturer	Age group	Number of doses in primary series	Number of booster doses	Interval between 1st and 2nd dose *	Interval between primary series and booster dose*
Pfizer-BioNTech	5–11 years	2	N/A	3 weeks	N/A
Pfizer-BioNTech	12–64 years	2	1	8 weeks**	≥5 months
Pfizer-BioNTech	≥65 years	2	1	3 weeks**	≥5 months
Moderna	18–64 years	2	1	8 weeks**	≥5 months
Moderna	≥65 years	2	1	4 weeks**	≥5 months
Janssen	18–64 years	1	1	NA	≥2 months

\*For the vaccination schedule for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, see [Table 3](#).

\*\*A shorter interval (3 weeks for Pfizer-BioNTech; 4 weeks for Moderna) between the first and second dose remains the recommended interval for: people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised; adults ages 65 years

and older; and others who need early protection due to increased concern about community transmission or risk of severe disease.

Providers can begin implementing the new guidance immediately. Providers should also update their scheduling procedures and tools to reflect the new guidance to ensure that 2<sup>nd</sup> dose appointments are scheduled at the appropriate interval. Connecticut DPH continues to support patient self-identification and attestation as a sufficient basis for confirming that an individual is within one of the categories for whom a specific interval is recommended. If a patient is 65 or older, or attests to being moderately to severely immune compromised, please continue to schedule at the shorter interval. Otherwise, your scheduling system should now reflect this 8-week recommendation.

**Please join tomorrow's CDC COCA Call: Updated Guidance for Clinicians on COVID-19 Vaccines for February 24, 2022, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET Call Details [here](#).**

### **Rationale and Summary of Updated Guidance**

**[New data](#) indicate that some people ages 12 through 64 years—and especially males ages 12 through 39 years—would benefit from getting their second mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose 8 weeks after receiving their first dose.** Extending the time interval between primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine doses from the FDA-approved or authorized 3 weeks (Pfizer-BioNTech) or 4 weeks (Moderna) to 8 weeks may help increase how long protection lasts against COVID-19. It may also help lower the (small) risk of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (swelling of tissue around the heart), which has been associated—mostly among adolescent and young adult males—with mRNA COVID-19 vaccination.

Please note that patients who meet these criteria and have already received their primary mRNA series at the 3-week (Pfizer-BioNTech) or 4-week (Moderna) interval remain well-protected—especially if they have received a booster dose—and do **not** need to repeat any doses.

It's important to note this update does not apply to everyone. Providers should continue to recommend the 3-week or 4-week interval for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, adults ages 65 years and older, and others who may need early protection due to concern about an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 or high levels of community transmission. There are currently no data available for children 5-11 years regarding any impact of intervals longer than 3 weeks between the 1st and 2nd doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Regardless of the interval between the first and second dose, mRNA vaccines are highly effective at reducing the risk of hospitalization and serious complications from COVID-19 infection. And people who have already received their primary mRNA series at the 3-week or 4-week interval remain well-protected—especially if they have received a booster dose.

For the CT DPH Immunization Program, visit: [Contact Us](#)

For the COVID-19 webpage, visit: [COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#)

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