

Waiting periods for COVID-19 vaccination after infection Fact Sheet

Ask a Pharmacist Webinar

1. The CDC recommends completing the COVID-19 vaccination series after being infected with COVID-19.¹ Vaccination can offer more complete and predictable immunity compared to active infection. Vaccine schedules for patients with normal or compromised immune systems are listed here^{3,4}:

Type	Recipient Age	Product	Persons Who ARE NOT Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised		Persons Who ARE Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised	
			Primary Series*	Booster Dose†‡	Primary Series*	Booster Dose†‡
mRNA vaccine	5-11 Years	Pfizer-BioNTech Ages: 5-11 years Orange cap	2 doses. Separate: Dose 1 and 2 by at least 3 weeks.	Change text to Booster dose 1: At least 5 months after Dose 2 Booster dose 2: N/A	3 doses. Separate: Dose 1 and 2 by at least 3 weeks. Dose 2 and 3 by at least 4 weeks.	Booster dose 1: At least 3 months after Dose 3 Booster dose 2: N/A
	12-17 Years	Pfizer-BioNTech Ages: 12 years and older Gray cap or Purple cap	2 doses. Separate: Dose 1 and 2 by at least 3 - 8 weeks.§	Booster dose 1: At least 5 months after Dose 2 Booster dose 2: N/A	3 doses. Separate: Dose 1 and 2 by at least 3 weeks. Dose 2 and 3 by at least 4 weeks.	Booster dose 1: At least 3 months after the previous dose Booster dose 2: At least 4 months after booster dose 1
	18 Years and older	Pfizer-BioNTech Ages: 12 years and older Gray cap or Purple cap	2 doses. Separate: Dose 1 and 2 by at least 3 - 8 weeks.§	Booster dose 1: At least 5 months after Dose 2 Booster dose 2: At least 4 months after booster dose 1 for persons ages 50 years and older	3 doses. Separate: Dose 1 and 2 by at least 3 weeks. Dose 2 and 3 by at least 4 weeks.	Booster dose 1: At least 3 months after the previous dose Booster dose 2: At least 4 months after booster dose 1
		Moderna	2 doses. Separate: Dose 1 and 2 by at least 4 - 8 weeks.§	Booster dose 1: At least 5 months after Dose 2 Booster dose 2: At least 4 months after booster dose 1 for persons ages 50 years and older	3 doses. Separate: Dose 1 and 2 by at least 4 weeks. Dose 2 and 3 by at least 4 weeks.	Booster dose 1: At least 3 months after the previous dose Booster dose 2: At least 4 months after booster dose 1
Viral vector vaccine	18 Years and older	Janssen¶	1 dose	Booster dose 1: At least 2 months after the primary series dose Booster dose 2**†: At least 4 months after previous dose for persons 50 years of age and older. (mRNA vaccine only)	2 doses. Separate: Dose 1 and 2†† by at least 28 days	Booster dose 1: At least 2 months after the previous dose Booster dose 2: At least 4 months after the previous dose (mRNA vaccine only)



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* Complete the primary series using the same product. Every effort should be made to determine which vaccine product was received as the first dose. If the vaccine product previously administered cannot be determined or is no longer available, any age-appropriate mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product may be administered at least 28 days after the first dose.

† A different age-appropriate COVID-19 vaccine product than the primary series may be administered for the booster dose. An mRNA COVID-19 vaccine is preferred.

‡ 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).

§ An 8-week interval may be optimal for some people, including males 12-39 years of age because of the small risk of myocarditis associated with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccine effectiveness may also be increased with an interval longer than 3 or 4 weeks (depending on the product).

¶ mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are preferred over the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine for all vaccine-eligible people. However, the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine may be offered in some situations.

** People ages 18-49 years: Those who received Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine as both their primary series dose and booster dose may receive a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months after the Janssen booster dose.

†† Administer Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine only

2. The required waiting period to begin or continue the vaccine series is however long it takes for the patient to be released from quarantine.²
3. One important recent change to the recommendations is that a waiting period is no longer for patients who received monoclonal antibodies.

References

1. "Should I Get a COVID-19 Vaccine If I've Already Had Covid-19?" *Mayo Clinic*, Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, 17 Feb. 2022, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/coronavirus-covid-19/vaccine-if-already-had-covid>.
2. Millersh. "When Should You Get Vaccinated If You've Had Covid-19?" *Cleveland Clinic*, Cleveland Clinic, 16 July 2021, <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/when-should-you-get-vaccinated-if-youve-had-covid-19/>.
3. "At-A-Glance Covid-19 Vaccination Schedules - Cdc.gov." *CDC.gov*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 23 May 2022, <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/COVID-19-vacc-schedule-at-a-glance-508.pdf>.
4. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/COVID-19-immunization-schedule-ages-5yrs-older.pdf>



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