

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):

COVID-19 Vaccine and Boosters

ODP Announcement 22-105

AUDIENCE:

All interested stakeholders

PURPOSE:

To provide the field with the most recent update to recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) about details for COVID-19 vaccine and boosters. Release of this announcement will obsolete *ODPANN 22-046: COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Reminder*

DISCUSSION:

As of September 2, 2022, the CDC has issued updated guidance regarding COVID-19 vaccines. COVID-19 vaccines currently approved or authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are effective in preventing serious outcomes of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), including severe disease, hospitalization, and death.

This updated guidance includes information on newly available booster vaccines, which are referred to as bivalent or updated vaccines. The guidance also discusses the availability of a newer primary vaccine called the Novovax COVID-19 vaccine. The CDC has updated information regarding the vaccination schedule for individuals based on age and provides considerations based on additional factors. Full information is available at the [CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States](#). Below is a summary of COVID-19 vaccination guidance for people who are not moderately or severely

immunocompromised. Additionally, links to two vaccination schedules, one for those who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and the other for those who are not moderately or severely immunocompromised are provided at the bottom. Your health care practitioner can help you determine which vaccination schedule is appropriate to follow.

Schedule: Ages 6 months through 11 years:

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

- Children ages 6 months–5 years: A 2-dose primary series separated by 4–8 weeks is recommended. Currently, a booster dose using any COVID-19 vaccine is not authorized for children in this age group who receive a Moderna primary series.
- Children ages 6–11 years: A 2-dose primary series separated by 4–8 weeks is recommended. Currently, a booster dose using any COVID-19 vaccine is not authorized for children in this age group who receive a Moderna primary series.

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

- Children ages 6 months–4 years: A 3-dose primary series is recommended. The first and second doses are separated by 3–8 weeks and the second and third doses are separated by at least 8 weeks. Currently, a booster dose using any COVID-19 vaccine is not authorized for children in this age group who receive a Pfizer-BioNTech primary series.
- Children ages 5–11 years: A 2-dose primary series and 1 booster dose is recommended. The primary series doses are separated by 3-8 weeks and the booster dose is administered at least 5 months after completion of the primary series. Currently, the monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech booster dose is authorized for children in this age group who receive a Pfizer-BioNTech primary series.

Schedule: Ages 12 through 17 years

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

- Adolescents ages 12–17 years: A 2-dose primary series and 1 age-appropriate bivalent mRNA booster dose is recommended. The primary series doses are separated by 4-8 weeks and the bivalent mRNA booster dose is administered at least 2 months after completion of the primary series (for people who have not received any booster doses), or at least 2 months after the last monovalent booster dose. Currently, the bivalent Pfizer-BioNTech booster dose is authorized for adolescents in this age group who receive a Moderna primary series.

Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine

- Adolescents ages 12–17 years: A 2-dose primary series and 1 age-appropriate bivalent mRNA booster dose is recommended. The primary series doses are separated by 3-8 weeks and the bivalent mRNA booster dose is administered at least 2 months after completion of the primary series. Currently, the bivalent Pfizer-BioNTech booster dose is authorized for adolescents in this age group who receive a Novavax primary series.

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

- Adolescents ages 12–17 years: A 2-dose primary series and 1 age-appropriate bivalent mRNA booster dose is recommended. The primary series doses are separated by 3-8 weeks and the bivalent mRNA booster dose is administered at least 2 months after completion of the primary series (for people who have not received any booster doses), or at least 2 months after the last monovalent booster dose. Currently, the bivalent

Pfizer-BioNTech booster dose is authorized for adolescents in this age group who receive a Pfizer-BioNTech primary series.

Schedule: Ages 18 years and older

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

- Adults ages 18 years and older: A 2-dose primary series and 1 bivalent mRNA booster dose (Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech) is recommended. The primary series doses are separated by 4–8 weeks and the bivalent mRNA booster dose is administered at least 2 months after completion of the primary series (for people who have not received any booster doses), or at least 2 months after the last monovalent booster dose.

Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine

- Adults ages 18 years and older: A 2-dose primary series and 1 bivalent mRNA booster dose (Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech) is recommended. The primary series doses are separated by 3–8 weeks and the bivalent mRNA booster dose is administered at least 2 months after completion of the primary series.

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

- Adults ages 18 years and older: A 2-dose primary series and 1 bivalent mRNA booster dose (Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech) is recommended. The primary series doses are separated by 3–8 weeks and the bivalent mRNA booster dose is administered at least 2 months after completion of the primary series (for people who have not received any booster doses), or at least 2 months after the last monovalent booster dose.

Previous vaccination with Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine

People ages 18 years and older who received the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine primary series dose are recommended to receive 1 bivalent mRNA booster dose (Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech) at least 2 months after completion of the primary series dose (for people who have not received any booster doses), or at least 2 months after the last monovalent booster dose.

Scheduling Vaccines and Booster Doses:

- Eligible individuals are now able to schedule appointments and receive vaccine or booster doses.
- ODP will not be coordinating clinics for COVID-19 vaccine or booster doses.

Supports Coordination Organizations (SCO) and Supports Coordinators (SC):

- Supports Coordinators (SCs) are responsible for ensuring vaccine access for every individual supported by their organization.
- SCs are expected to be aware of vaccine and vaccination process information.
- SCs are responsible to support the vaccination process through coordination of vaccine access **and** vaccination appointments.

Residential Providers:

- Residential service providers are expected to identify a vaccine provider or have a plan for vaccinations of residents.
- Providers encountering difficulty locating vaccine resources can contact: [ra-pwodpemrgncysprq@pa.gov](mailto:rapwodpemrgncysprq@pa.gov).

Preparedness checklist for long-term care facilities:

- **Evaluate the needs of your population.** Regardless of which vaccine your residents and staff received they can receive any vaccine as their booster.
- **Consider eligible healthcare staff** as potential recipients of booster doses (or a primary series if not yet vaccinated) as well.
- **Work with local pharmacies and providers** to hold booster clinics, administer doses in your facility if possible.

Individuals and Families:

- Individuals who need assistance locating a vaccine provider can go to:
[Vaccines.gov - Search for COVID-19 vaccine locations](https://www.vaccines.gov)
- Additional assistance is available by calling the PA Health Hotline at 1-877-724-3258

Individuals Requiring Vaccination In-home:

Individuals who are enrolled in HealthChoices managed care can call their managed care organization (MCO) to request assistance getting their vaccine in their home.

- Individuals who do not have a Medicaid managed care organization and cannot leave their home can contact the COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline at (800) 424-4326. Hours of operation are 8 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday (except some holidays).

Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do to protect Pennsylvanians from COVID-19.

Questions about this announcement may be directed to ra-pwodpemrgncyrspq@pa.gov.

CDC Recommended Vaccination Schedules:

- Non-immunocompromised:

[COVID19-vaccination-schedule-most-people.png \(2688x2688\) \(cdc.gov\)](#)

- Immunocompromised:

[COVID19-vaccination-schedule-immunocompromised.png \(2688x2688\) \(cdc.gov\)](#)