June 23, 2022

**Expanded Eligibility for COVID-19 Vaccine and Boosters in Children**

Younger children are now eligible for COVID-19 vaccines and boosters. Protect the whole family and keep everyone healthy by making sure all eligible family members get vaccinated.

- COVID-19 vaccines are now available and recommended for children age 6 months and older
- A booster vaccine is now available and recommended for children age 5 years and older

While children have tended to have more mild COVID-19 infections, they are still at risk for serious illness. Earlier this year during Omicron, children under 5 were hospitalized at 5 times the rate compared to Delta at the end of last year. Overall it is estimated that more than 122,000 children have been hospitalized nationally due to COVID-19 infection; about 1 in 3 of those hospitalized needed ICU-level care. Many children did not have underlying health conditions. Other risks from infection include post-COVID conditions such as multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) and long COVID.

The vaccine is very effective at preventing serious illness and death from COVID-19. Common side effects are similar to other routine vaccines such as sore arm/leg, feeling tired, or low fever—these are normal and expected symptoms from a vaccine when the body is building up protection.

Vaccination is still recommended for persons who have had COVID-19 infection before—data shows that the vaccine provides stronger, more reliable protection in those with a history of infection. People who were just exposed or just diagnosed with COVID-19 should wait at least until they are recovered before getting a vaccine. Current data shows that waiting up to 3 months after infection may create a stronger response to the vaccine in some situations—talk with your provider if you have any questions.

Staying up-to-date with boosters helps ensure ongoing protection. A booster vaccine is recommended for everyone age 5 years and older. A second booster vaccine is recommended for higher risk persons including those age 50 years or older and those with a weakened immune system.

COVID-19 vaccines can be given at the same time as other routine childhood and back-to-school vaccines. Infants and younger children may not be able to receive vaccines at most pharmacies. Families may call their pediatrician, visit [myturn.ca.gov](http://myturn.ca.gov) or call 1-833-422-5255 for appointments and clinic locations.
COVID-19 Vaccination Schedules

Use the schedules below to determine how many total COVID-19 vaccine doses are recommended based on primary series product, age, and immune status. This schedule does not include clinical details necessary for administering COVID-19 vaccines. For clinical details, see the resources at the end of this document.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Schedule for Most People

#### Number and intervals of COVID-19 vaccine doses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>DOSE 1 (primary)</th>
<th>DOSE 2 (primary)</th>
<th>DOSE 3 (primary)</th>
<th>DOSE 4 (booster*)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer-BioNTech</td>
<td>5+ years</td>
<td>In 3-8 weeks</td>
<td>In at least 5 months</td>
<td>In at least 4 months</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderna</td>
<td>18+ years</td>
<td>In 4-8 weeks</td>
<td>In at least 5 months</td>
<td>In at least 4 months</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janssen (J&amp;J)</td>
<td>18+ years</td>
<td>In at least 2 months</td>
<td>In at least 4 months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Age-appropriate mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are preferred over Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine for primary and booster vaccination. Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine should only be used in limited situations. See: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html#considerations-Janssen.

For more specific clinical guidance, see:
- Interim COVID-19 Immunization Schedule
- Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines

### COVID-19 Immunization Schedule for People Who Are Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised

#### Number and intervals of COVID-19 vaccine doses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>DOSE 1 (primary)</th>
<th>DOSE 2 (primary)</th>
<th>DOSE 3 (primary)</th>
<th>DOSE 4 (booster*)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer-BioNTech</td>
<td>6 months–4 years</td>
<td>In 3-8 weeks</td>
<td>In at least 8 weeks</td>
<td>In at least 4 months</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderna</td>
<td>6 months–17 years</td>
<td>In 4-8 weeks</td>
<td>In at least 4 months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janssen (J&amp;J)</td>
<td>12-17 years</td>
<td>In at least 2 months</td>
<td>In at least 4 months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more specific clinical guidance, see:
- Interim COVID-19 Immunization Schedule
- Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines

For more information, visit: cdc.gov/coronavirus