

TULARE COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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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.

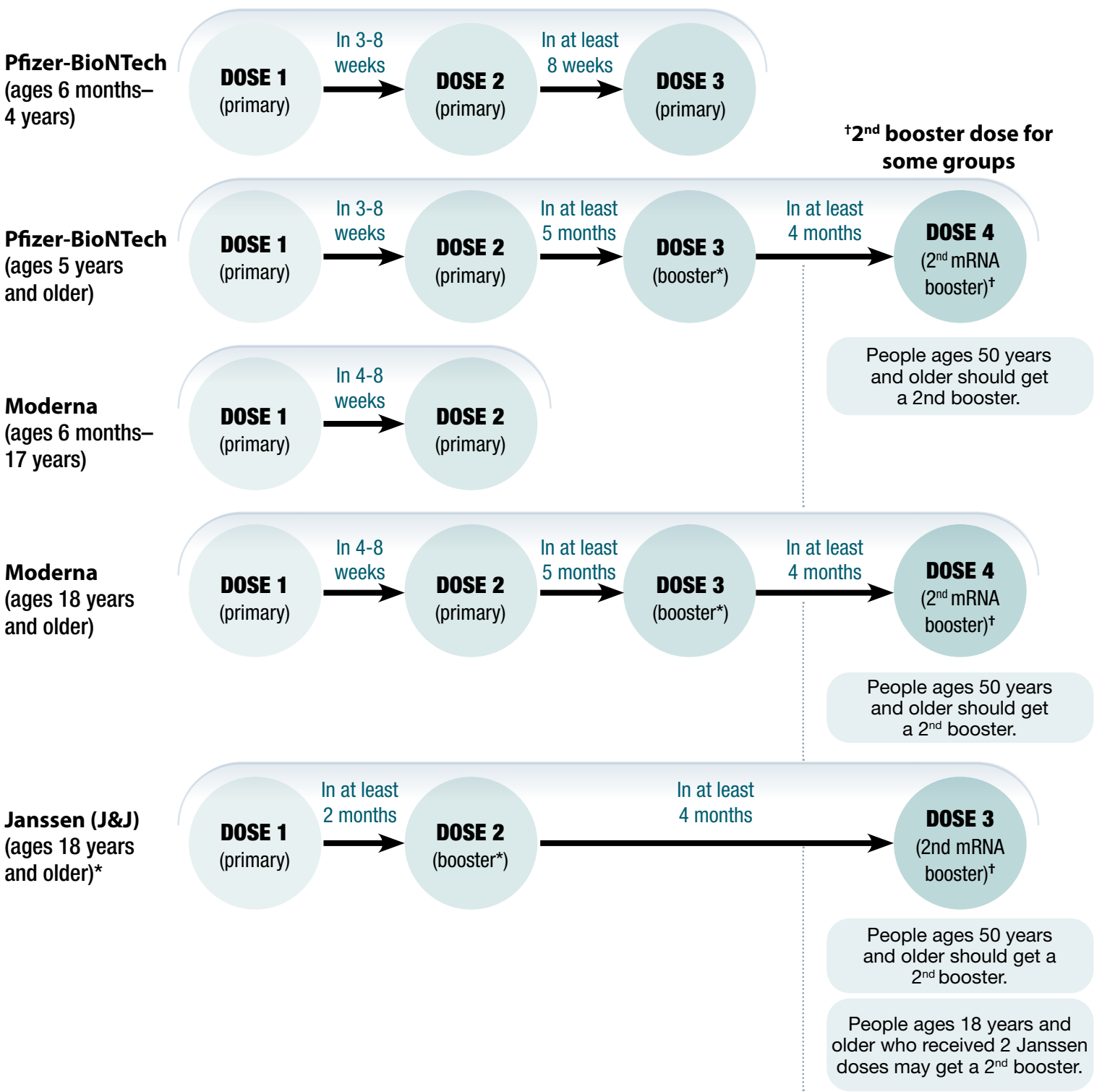
COVID-19 vaccines can be given at the same time as other routine childhood and back-to-school vaccines. Infants and younger children may not be able to receive vaccines at most pharmacies. Families may call their pediatrician, visit myturn.ca.gov or call 1-833-422-5255 for appointments and clinic locations.

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.

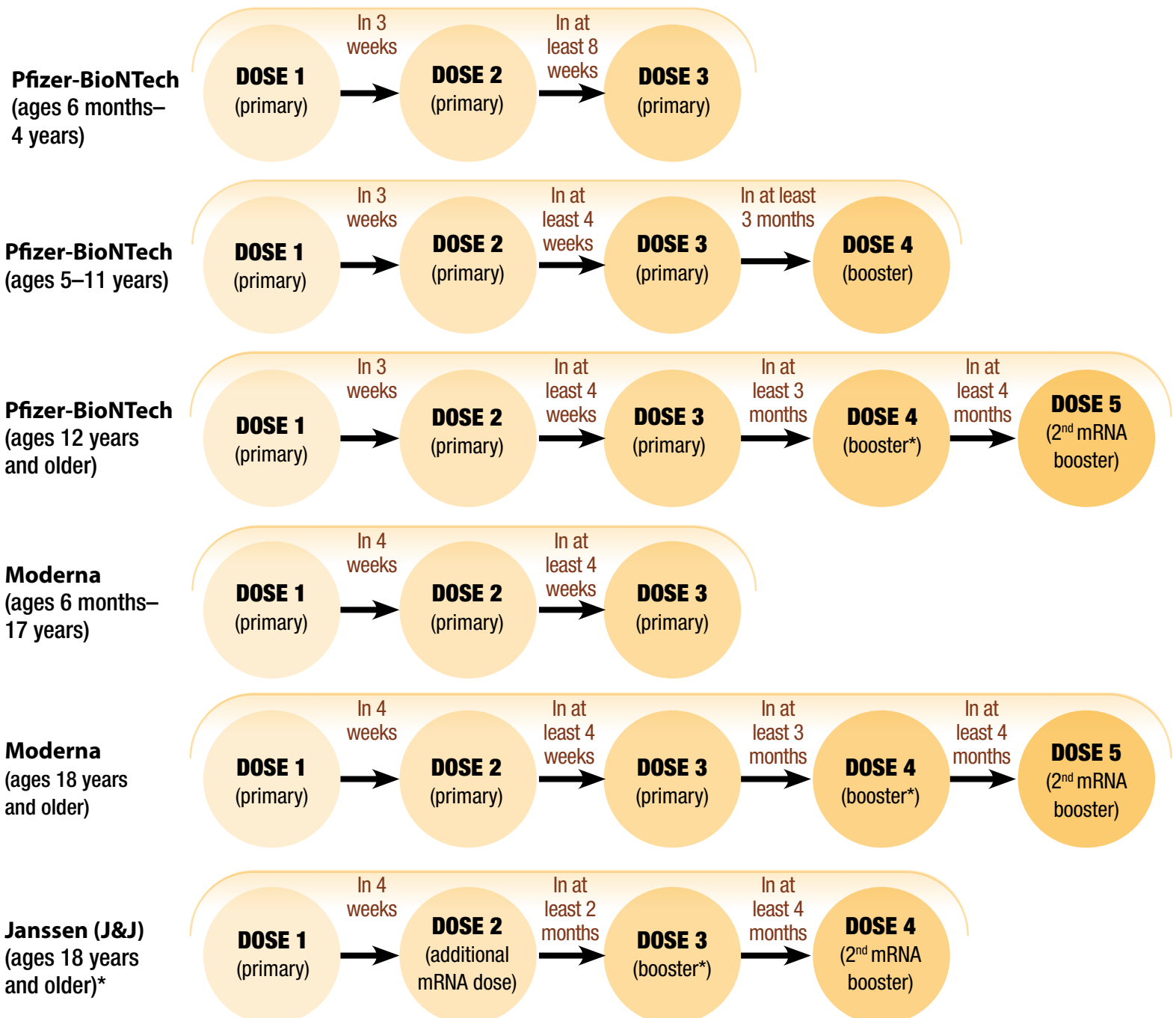
COVID-19 Vaccination Schedule for Most People

Number and intervals of COVID-19 vaccine doses



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

Number and intervals of COVID-19 vaccine doses



* 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 Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States](#)

