COVID-19 Vaccination: Summary of Vaccination Requirements

This document summarizes the different terms used to describe a person’s COVID-19 vaccination status and which are relevant to providers’ clinical recommendations and vaccine policies. Federal, New York State, New York City, and private vaccination requirements for attending work and school, going to restaurants and other venues, and travel may be different than current clinical recommendations.

**Primary vaccine series:** For vaccines authorized or approved for use in the U.S., the primary vaccine series includes two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine. An additional primary dose is recommended as part of the primary series for people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised, as this population may not mount a sufficient response with two doses.

**Fully vaccinated:** People are considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 two weeks after they have received two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. While an additional dose may be clinically indicated for some people as part of their primary vaccine series, a person does not need an additional dose to be considered fully vaccinated for policy purposes.

In addition, people who completed all of the recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO), but not approved or authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), or people who completed a heterologous (mix and match) series composed of doses of a COVID-19 vaccine listed for emergency use by WHO, at least one of which is a non-FDA-approved or authorized vaccine, are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after completion of the series.

**Booster dose:** A booster dose is recommended after completion of the primary vaccine series to increase antibody levels against COVID-19 which may have decreased over time, or to enhance protection against new variants.

**Up to date:** People are up to date on COVID-19 vaccination if they have received the recommended number of vaccine doses for which they are eligible based on age and minimum interval since the last dose. Recommended doses currently encompass the primary vaccine series, which may include an additional primary dose of vaccine and a booster dose. The table below summarizes current recommendations for adults and children to stay up to date on their vaccines.
Clinical Recommendations to Stay Up to Date on COVID-19 Vaccines (Primary Series + Booster Dose)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Primary series</th>
<th>Additional dose for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised</th>
<th>Booster dose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vaccine¹</td>
<td>Two-dose Pfizer or Moderna, or single-dose Johnson &amp; Johnson</td>
<td>For Pfizer and Moderna vaccine recipients, same vaccine that was administered for the initial two doses; for Johnson &amp; Moderna vaccine recipients, either Pfizer or Moderna</td>
<td>Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson &amp; Johnson</td>
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| Timing                | Pfizer: 3-8 weeks between first dose and second dose²  
Modern: 4-8 weeks between first dose and second dose² | 28 days after second Pfizer or Moderna dose or single Johnson & Johnson dose | Five months after completing Pfizer or Moderna primary series,³ or two months after Johnson & Johnson dose |

| Age 18+               | ✓              | ✓                          | ✓             |
| Age 12-17  
(Pfizer only)     | ✓              |                           | ✓             |
| Age 5-11  
(Pfizer only)     | ✓              |                           | Not eligible  |

¹ A person may receive the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. However, as of December 2021, Pfizer or Moderna (mRNA) vaccines are preferred in most situations for primary and booster vaccination over the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
² An 8-week interval may be optimal for some people age 12 years and older, especially for males ages 12 to 39. A shorter interval (3 weeks for Pfizer; 4 weeks for Moderna) between the first and second doses remains the recommended interval for: people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised; adults age 65 and older; and others who need rapid protection due to increased concern about community transmission or risk of severe disease.
³ People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised can get a booster dose three months after completion of their primary Pfizer or Moderna series or another interval recommended by their health care provider.

For more information, see Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Clinical Considerations at [cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html](http://cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html), including sections on primary series, additional primary dose, booster dose, and people who received COVID-19 vaccine outside of the U.S.