



Updated Time Between First and Second COVID-19 Vaccine Doses

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated its COVID-19 vaccination guidance to extend the time (interval) between the first and second doses of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines to eight weeks for most people ages 12 to 64 years.

Why was the interval changed?

New data indicates that an eight-week interval between the first and second doses of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) may improve the immune response, increase vaccine effectiveness and increase how long the vaccines protect against infection and hospitalization. It may also help lower the small risk of myocarditis (inflammation in the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the outer lining of the heart) that has been associated with mRNA COVID-19 vaccination.

Who does this affect?

This guidance affects most people ages 12 to 64 years. The CDC continues to recommend the vaccine interval between the first and second dose to be three weeks for Pfizer and four weeks for Moderna for:

- People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised
- Adults ages 65 years and older
- Others who may need early protection due to concern about an increased risk of severe COVID-19 illness or high levels of community transmission

The vaccine interval for children ages 5 to 11 years is three weeks and has not changed.

What if I have already completed the mRNA primary doses with a shorter interval?

People who have already completed their Pfizer or Moderna primary doses with a three- or four-week interval between their first and second doses do not need to repeat any of the doses. Everyone ages 12 and older should receive a booster dose five months after completing their primary doses.

For more information, visit nyc.gov/covidvaccine.

To find a vaccination site, visit nyc.gov/vaccinefinder or call 877-VAX-4-NYC (877-829-4692).

If you have questions or need help finding an NYC Health + Hospitals doctor, call **311** or 212-COVID-19 (212-268-4319). Care is provided regardless of immigration status, insurance status or ability to pay.

The NYC Health Department may change recommendations as the situation evolves.

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