


Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases



CDC Clinical Considerations for the 2nd dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines

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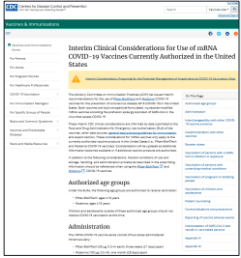
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Clinical considerations for mRNA COVID-19 vaccines

- Recommendations apply to both Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines
- Guidance may change as further information becomes available



<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>

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2nd dose administration: Clarification of 4-day grace period

- mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series consist of two doses administered intramuscularly:
 - Pfizer-BioNTech: 3 weeks (21 days) apart
 - Moderna: 1 month (28 days) apart
- Persons should not be scheduled to receive the second dose earlier than recommended (i.e., 3 weeks [Pfizer-BioNTech] or 1 month [Moderna])
 - Second doses administered within a grace period of 4 days earlier than the recommended date for the second dose are still considered valid
- No maximum interval between the first and second doses for either vaccine
 - If the second dose is administered >3 weeks after the first Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine dose or >1 month after the first Moderna vaccine dose, no need to restart the series

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Interchangeability of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines

- mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are **not** interchangeable, and both doses in the series should be completed with the same vaccine product
 - Safety and efficacy of a mixed-product series have not been evaluated
- If two doses of different mRNA COVID-19 vaccine products are inadvertently administered, no additional doses of either product are recommended

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Potential strategies for 2nd dose compliance

- Complete COVID-19 vaccination record cards with accurate vaccine information, give them to each vaccine recipient, encourage recipients to keep the card and bring it to the second dose appointment
- Record each recipient's vaccination in immunization information system (IIS)
- Record administration information in the patient's medical record
- Make an appointment for the second dose BEFORE the recipient leaves
- Provide a reminder (when a dose is due) or a recall (when a dose is missed)
 - Reminders might be generated via electronic medical record, IIS, or v-safe

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Timing of 2nd dose in persons who develop SARS-CoV-2 infection after the 1st dose

- 2nd dose administration should be deferred until the person has recovered from the acute illness (if the person had symptoms) and [criteria](#) have been met for them to discontinue isolation
 - Same recommendation as persons who have not received any doses
- For persons who received monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma treatment, 2nd dose vaccination should be deferred for 90 days
 - Same recommendation as persons who have not received any doses

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Patient counseling around 2nd dose

- Both mRNA COVID-19 vaccines demonstrate high efficacy after two doses
 - Efficacy after a single dose has not been systematically evaluated, so patients should be counseled on the importance of completing both doses
- Majority of vaccine recipients experience local and/or systemic reactions following vaccination (more frequent and severe following 2nd dose)
 - Most are mild-moderate in severity, occur within first 3 days of vaccination, and resolve within 1-2 days of onset
 - Patients should be counseled to complete the series even if they experience reactions after the first dose

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Contraindications to receiving the 2nd dose

- Contraindications to either of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines:
 - Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine or to any of its components
 - Immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine or any of its components (including polyethylene glycol [PEG])*
 - Immediate allergic reaction of any severity to polysorbate (due to potential cross-reactive hypersensitivity with the vaccine ingredient PEG)*
- Persons with an immediate allergic reaction to the first dose of an mRNA vaccine should not receive additional doses of either of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines

* These persons should not receive mRNA COVID-19 vaccination at this time unless they have been evaluated by an allergist-immunologist and it is determined that the person can safely receive the vaccine (e.g., under observation, in a setting with advanced medical care available).

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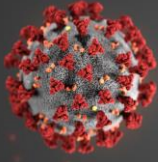
Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment COVIDvax project

- Additional resource for safety questions, including for reactions after the 1st dose and advice for receiving the 2nd dose
- Healthcare personnel or health departments in the United States can request a consultation for a complex COVID-19 vaccine safety question about an individual patient residing in the United States not readily addressed by CDC guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/ensuringsafety/monitoring/cisa/index.html>

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For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

Thank you

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



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