

NEW MEXICO HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) ALERT

CDC and FDA Updates to COVID-19 vaccine:

Guidance for immunocompromised, those receiving monoclonal antibodies, and those vaccinated in other countries

February 14, 2022

Background

On February 11, 2022, the Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) updated recommendations for COVID-19 vaccine use. For complete details, please refer to [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)

Key updated guidance for clinicians and public health officials:

- **Moderate or severely immunocompromised and Pfizer or Moderna mRNA vaccine:** Individuals 12 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and received an mRNA primary series and the third dose can receive the booster dose at three (3) months after the third dose. This has been shortened from five months from the completion of the primary series/additional dose.
- **Moderate or severely immunocompromised and J & J vaccine:** Individuals who are 18 years of age and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and received Janssen vaccine as a primary are now recommended to receive an mRNA 2nd dose at 28 days followed by a booster two (2) months after the 2nd dose.
- **Additional considerations for mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines:** On a case-by-case basis, healthcare providers for moderately or severely immunocompromised patients may administer mRNA COVID-19 vaccines outside of the FDA and CDC dosing intervals based on clinical judgement when the benefits of vaccination are deemed to outweigh the potential and unknown risks for the recipient. However, providers should not routinely administer additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine beyond those recommended in CDC/FDA guidance.
- **Moderna booster doses given instead of additional dose:** If an immunocompromised patient receives the 2-dose primary Moderna series and then receives a Moderna booster dose instead of an additional dose, then the Moderna booster dose is considered an **error**. There are two ways to approach this situation:
 - If this error was discovered **on the same clinic day**, then you may administer another half-volume Moderna dose (i.e., 0.25 mL) in the opposite arm and the two doses can together be counted as one full dose.
 - If this error was discovered later, and it is **now a different clinic day**, repeat a full dose of Moderna immediately (with no minimum interval from the previous 0.25 mL dose), preferably in the opposite arm.
 - The patient would then need to return in **3 months'** time for their booster dose, once either of the above steps are taken.

Table 3: COVID-19 vaccination schedule for people with moderate or severe immunocompromise*

Primary vaccination	Age group	Number of primary vaccine doses	Number of booster doses	Interval between 1st and 2nd dose	Interval between 2nd and 3rd dose	Interval between 3rd and 4th dose
Pfizer-BioNTech	5-11 years	3	NA	3 weeks	≥4 weeks	N/A
Pfizer-BioNTech	≥12 years	3	1	3 weeks	≥4 weeks	≥3 months
Moderna	≥18 years	3	1	4 weeks	≥4 weeks	≥3 months
Janssen	≥18 years	1 Janssen, followed by 1 mRNA	1	4 weeks	≥2 months	N/A

- **COVID-19 vaccine after antibody products:** people who previously received antibody products (anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma) as part of COVID-19 treatment, post-exposure prophylaxis, or pre-exposure prophylaxis can be vaccinated any time; COVID-19 vaccination does not need to be delayed. **However, in people who previously received a COVID-19 vaccine, administration of tixagevimab/cilgavimab (EVUSHELD™) for pre-exposure prophylaxis should be deferred for at least two weeks after vaccination, per the product EUA.**
- **People vaccinated outside of the US with World Health Organization (WHO) approved vaccines:**
 - People 12 years of age and older who have had **an incomplete series** of a WHO-approved but non-FDA authorize/approved vaccine may receive the age-appropriate mRNA vaccine to complete the series (previously, only Pfizer) and then should receive an age-appropriate mRNA booster at five months.
 - People 12 years of age and older who have **completed** a WHO-approved but non-FDA authorized/approved vaccine should receive an age-appropriate mRNA booster at five (5) months.
 - Immunocompromised people 12 years of age and older who have started vaccination with a WHO-approved but non-FDA authorized/approved vaccine should receive a 3rd dose of age-appropriate mRNA vaccine and then a booster at three (3) months.

Safety Considerations:

- People who have a history of myocarditis or pericarditis unrelated to mRNA COVID-19 vaccination (e.g., due to SARS-CoV-2 or other viruses) may receive any currently FDA-approved or FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine after the episode of myocarditis or pericarditis has completely resolved.
- However, development of myocarditis or pericarditis after a dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine is a precaution to a subsequent dose of any COVID-19 vaccine and subsequent doses should generally be avoided until additional safety data are available.
- If, after a risk assessment, the decision is made to receive a subsequent COVID-19 vaccine dose, the person should wait until at least after their episode of myocarditis or pericarditis has resolved. For men ages 18 years and older who choose to receive a subsequent COVID-19 vaccine, some experts

advise the use of Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine be considered instead of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. These people should be aware of the risk of **thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS)**.

Access to Vaccine Boosters Doses in New Mexico

- New Mexico COVID-19 vaccine providers can immediately implement the above recommendations.
- The statewide registration app has implemented the above recommendation for scheduling. People can schedule at: [Get Vaccinated New Mexico | NMDOH \(vaccinenm.org\)](https://www.vaccinenm.org)
- New Mexicans can also schedule primary vaccine and boosters with their medical or pharmacy provider.
- Vaccine appointments can also be found on the CDC Vaccine Finder website: [Vaccines.gov - Find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you.](https://www.vaccines.gov)

Additional Resources:

1. Clinical recommendations have been updated: [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s111621-covid-19-vaccines.html)
2. For clinicians wishing to administer COVID-19 vaccine, please contact the NM DOH Immunization Team at covid.vaccines@state.nm.us or register online at TakeCareNM.com: [For Providers | NMDOH \(rtscustomer.com\)](https://www.takecarenm.com/providers)

New Mexico Health Alert Network: To register for the New Mexico Health Alert Network, click the following link to go directly to the HAN registration page <https://nm.readyop.com/fs/4cjZ/10b2> Please provide all information requested to begin receiving important health alerts and advisories.

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