

Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccine Providers on Second Doses

As Ohio is administering COVID-19 vaccines, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) offers the following reminders of processes to help providers ensure proper administration for second doses of vaccine for multiple-dose products when they are due.

The [Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine](#) and the [Moderna vaccine](#) are two-dose products. Providers should ensure vaccine recipients understand that everyone who receives the first dose in a two-dose series must get the second dose to receive full protection. The need for and timing of additional COVID-19 booster doses have not been established. No additional doses are recommended at this time, however additional booster doses may be recommended in the future.

Second-dose allocations

When administering first-dose vaccinations, **providers should not hold vaccine back for the second dose.** Vaccine will be allocated for series completion closer to the time that it is due. Providers will receive a notification about second-dose shipments the week they are expected.

Second-dose intervals

Providers should follow guidance provided by individual pharmaceutical companies on the appropriate intervals between the first and second dose:

- **Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine:** 21 days after the first dose.
- **Moderna vaccine:** 28 days after the first dose.
- Individuals should not be scheduled to receive the second dose earlier than recommended. However, second doses administered within a grace period of four days earlier than the recommended date for the second dose are still considered valid. Doses inadvertently administered earlier than the grace period should not be repeated.
- The second dose should be administered as close to the recommended interval as possible. However, if that is not feasible, the second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine may be scheduled for administration up to six weeks (42 days) after the first dose. There is currently limited data on efficacy of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines administered beyond this window. If the second dose is administered beyond these intervals, there is no need to restart the series, according to [CDC guidance](#).

Vaccine products are not interchangeable

Providers should exercise extra care in ensuring that a patient's second dose is from the same manufacturer as the first dose, as they are not interchangeable. The safety and efficacy of a mixed-product series have not been evaluated. However, if two doses of different mRNA COVID-19 vaccine products are inadvertently administered, no additional doses of either product are recommended at this time, according to the [CDC](#). Recommendations may be updated as further information becomes available or other COVID-19 vaccines are authorized.

Vaccine administration errors should be reported to the CDC's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).

Information on how to submit a report to VAERS is available at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/> or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

Co-administration with other vaccines

A minimum interval of 14 days should be followed before or after administration of COVID-19 vaccine with any other type of vaccine. However, the length of time between administration of [mRNA COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines may be reduced when the benefits of vaccination outweigh the potential unknown risks of vaccine co-administration \(e.g., tetanus toxoid-containing vaccination](#) as part of wound management; measles or hepatitis A vaccination during an outbreak) or to avoid barriers or delays to mRNA COVID-19 vaccination (e.g., in long-term care facility residents or healthcare personnel who received influenza or other vaccinations prior to/upon admission or onboarding).

If mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are administered within 14 days of another vaccine, doses do not need to be repeated for either vaccine.

Actions required by providers

Vaccine reporting

Providers are required to upload information on all COVID-19 vaccinations to [Ohio Impact Statewide Immunization Information System \(ImpactSIIS\)](#) within 24 hours of administration. This information is a crucial step in the process of ensuring appropriate administration of second doses. Uploading to ImpactSIIS allows:

- Immediate provider access to the client's immunization record.
- A way to verify additional information about COVID-19 vaccine doses, including:
 - Vaccine manufacturer of first dose and lot number.
 - Date of first dose.
 - Records of clients using an alternate provider for the second dose.

For additional training and resources, visit ODH's [ImpactSIIS Job Aids and Videos](#) section.

Vaccination record cards

The CDC has created COVID-19 vaccination record cards, which are included in the vaccine ancillary kits that ship with the vaccine. **Vaccination record cards must be signed and completed by healthcare staff to include vaccine manufacturer, vaccine lot number, location of vaccination, and date.**

Providers should instruct patients to bring the card with them when they receive the second dose. Additionally, providers should encourage patients to use their smartphone to take a picture of their vaccination record card in case the patient misplaces the record card after receiving the first dose.

Keep your card safe and protected, but do not laminate the card in case booster doses are needed later.

Schedule second dose appointment during first vaccination

Providers should engage directly with patients to ensure patients receive all doses of the COVID-19 vaccine at the recommended interval and should make every effort to schedule the second dose during each patient's initial visit.

Second-dose flexibility

ODH continues to encourage individuals to obtain their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine from the same provider who administered their first dose. That provider is allocated second doses based on who receives a first dose at that location. However, there are specific circumstances that may be an exception. In cases where an individual is unable to visit the same provider, ODH will permit another vaccine provider to administer the second dose if that vaccine provider has an available vaccine supply and chooses to provide this service.

For more information, visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov

Examples include, but are not limited to: a college student who received the first dose on campus but will return home before they can get the second dose; an individual who received a first dose that was “an extra dose” at a clinic and cannot return to that location; or scheduling conflicts that cannot be resolved with the original provider but could potentially be resolved at a different location offering the same product. In cases like this, ODH recommends the following course of action for individuals to schedule their second-dose vaccination:

1. Individuals should first make every reasonable attempt to reschedule with the original provider when possible.
2. Check with the local health department as a first possibility to reschedule their second-dose vaccination.
3. Individuals will need to bring their vaccination card to confirm their first dose, including the brand of vaccine, lot number and date of the initial shot. However, a record of the first vaccination should also be accessible in ImpactSIIS.
4. If an individual wants to use another provider, it is recommended that they first contact the provider to explain the circumstances and ensure that the provider has vaccine supply and can provide this service. If a new appointment is made, contact the original provider to cancel the original second-dose appointment.

Send reminders about second dose

Providers should communicate with patients ahead of scheduled visits to remind them to return for their second dose via call, text, or email. Reminders can be as simple as “In order to have maximum protection from COVID-19, a second dose is required. Your second dose appointment is scheduled for XXX at XXX a.m./p.m.”

Share information about CDC’s V-safe tool and VaxText

The CDC has asked providers to share information with vaccine recipients about two resources:

- The [CDC’s V-safe](#) smartphone-based post-vaccination tool is available for patients to use for reminders and health check-ins.
- The [CDC’s VaxText](#) text messaging resource is a free service for providers that do not already have a text or email reminder system in place. By texting ENROLL to 1-833-VaxText (829-8398), vaccine recipients can opt in to receive a weekly text reminder for their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine or a reminder if they are overdue for their second dose. Available in English or Spanish.

Updated April 23, 2021.

Please visit coronavirus.ohio.gov for resources for consumers and providers.

If you have any questions or issues, please call the ODH Provider Call Center between 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, at 1-844-9ODHVAX (1-844-963-4829) or email COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov.