

Guidance for Providers on COVID-19 Vaccine 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 when they are due.

OVERALL GUIDANCE

- The [Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine](#) and the [Moderna vaccine](#) are two-dose vaccines. Providers should ensure vaccine recipients understand that everyone who receives the COVID-19 vaccine must get a second dose to receive full protection.
- When administering first-dose vaccinations, **providers should not hold vaccine back for the second dose.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will allocate vaccine for series completion closer to the time that it is due to be administered.
- **Second-dose intervals** - Providers should be familiar with, and comply with, 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 it is not feasible to adhere to the recommended interval, the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines may be scheduled for administration up to six weeks (42 days) after the first dose. There are 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 [updated CDC guidance](#).
- **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.
- A minimum interval of 14 days should be maintained before or after administration of COVID-19 vaccine with any other type of 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.
 - 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.

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.

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 free service providers can offer to vaccine recipients if you 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.

Thank you in advance for your partnership in providing this vital service to Ohioans who are choosing to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Updated Jan. 22, 2021.

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

Direct your questions to the Provider Call Center at 1-844-9-ODH-VAX (1-844-963-4829) for assistance.

For more information, visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov