



In This SIREN

- IMPORTANT REMINDERS & UPDATES..... 1**
 - IEMA Clinics Ramping Down by April 1, 2022 1*
 - CDC Updates Interim Clinical Considerations for mRNA Primary Dose Intervals 2*
 - CDC Updates Interim Clinical Considerations for Booster Doses for Immunocompromised Individuals 2*
 - CDC Updates Additional Interim Clinical Considerations 3*
 - Updated CDC Documents 3*
 - Adverse Reactions less Frequent with Booster Dose 3*
 - Non-COVID-19 Vaccine Updates 3*
 - Pneumococcal Vaccine Changes 4*
- VACCINE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION 4**
 - Johnson & Johnson Shelf-Life Extension 4*
 - Moderna Updates 4*
 - Pfizer Shipping Data Loggers 5*
 - Pfizer general storage reminders 5*
 - Vaccine Expiration Date Reminders 6*
- PROMOTING EQUITY 6**
 - CDC Updates Health Equity Resources 6*
 - Pediatric COVID-19 vaccines for VFC Providers 6*
- COMMUNICATION RESOURCES 6**
 - 2022 Flu Season Toolkit 6*

IMPORTANT REMINDERS & UPDATES

IEMA Clinics Ramping Down by April 1, 2022

Vaccination clinics run by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and their partners have been a significant contributor to getting Illinoisans vaccinated against COVID-19. They have helped with vaccinating long-term care facilities, provided access in underserved areas, and helped support local health departments. As we, as a State, transition to a new phase of the COVID-19 response, these clinics are ramping down. Clinics will be held throughout the month of March but will conclude by April 1, 2022. If you are interested in hosting a clinic supported by IEMA partner, the [request](#) must be submitted

by March 21, 2022. After this date, please work with the IDPH Immunizations section or your local health department for any technical assistance needs.

CDC Updates Interim Clinical Considerations for mRNA Primary Dose Intervals

The CDC has updated its recommendations for the interval between the first and second dose of primary series mRNA vaccines.

- For certain individuals between the ages of 12 and 39 years of age an extension of the interval between first and second doses to eight weeks may be appropriate to [increase immune response](#) and decrease adverse reactions.
- Individuals who are immunocompromised or over the age of 65 should continue to follow the original three or four-week primary series interval for mRNA vaccines.
- Read the updated guidance [here](#).

TABLE 2. COVID-19 vaccination schedule for the primary series in the general population*

Primary series vaccine manufacturer	Age group	Number of doses in primary series	Number of booster doses	Interval between 1 st and 2 nd dose *	Interval between primary series and booster dose
Pfizer-BioNTech	5–11 years	2	NA	3 weeks	N/A
Pfizer-BioNTech	≥12 years	2	1	3-8 weeks**	≥5 months
Moderna	≥18 years	2	1	4-8 weeks**	≥5 months
Janssen	≥18 years	1	1	NA	≥2 months

*For the vaccination schedule for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, see [Table 3](#).

An **8-week interval may be optimal for people ages 12 years through 64 years, and especially for males ages 12 through 39 years, who are not moderately or severely immunocompromised. A **shorter interval** (3 weeks for Pfizer-BioNTech; 4 weeks for Moderna) between the first and second dose remains the recommended interval for: people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised; adults ages 65 years and older; and others who need early protection due to increased concern about community transmission or risk of severe disease.

CDC Updates Interim Clinical Considerations for Booster Doses for Immunocompromised Individuals

The CDC has updated their interim [clinical considerations](#) to clarify vaccine schedules for immunocompromised individuals.

- CDC provided clarified guidance that a 3-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series is recommended for people ages **5 years and older** who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, followed by a booster dose in those ages 12 years and older.
- View the recommendations for moderately to severely immunocompromised children [here](#).

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

CDC Updates Additional Interim Clinical Considerations

The CDC has updated their interim [clinical considerations to include](#):

- Simplified recommendations for vaccination after receipt of passive COVID-19 antibody products, eliminating all vaccination deferral periods after receipt of these antibody products.
- Updated booster guidance for those who have been vaccinated outside the United States.
- Updated contraindication and precaution section to include history of myocarditis or pericarditis after an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine as a precaution.

Updated CDC Documents

- CDC has updated its PDF version of the Interim COVID-19 Immunization Schedule for Ages 5 years and older. Find the reference [here](#).
- Standing orders have also been updated and are available on the product pages [here](#).

Adverse Reactions less Frequent with Booster Dose

The CDC has updated its information about the safety of booster doses.

- After a data review, CDC found that local and system reactions were less frequent after a homologous booster dose of an mRNA vaccine than with the second dose of the primary series.
- Read the updated information [here](#).
- Additionally, [CDC reported that](#) adverse reactions, including myocarditis, in adolescents ages 12-17 were less frequent after a booster dose than a second primary dose.

Non-COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

CDC has released its 2022 updated vaccine schedules for children and adolescents as well as adults.

- Changes include added appendices, links to partner organizations, and online and print-versions including clinical recommendations.
- Updates to vaccine-specific guidance, include:
 - The addition of dengue vaccines for individuals ages 9-16 with lab-confirmed previous infection and in areas where the virus is endemic.

- The recommendation of pneumococcal vaccine for adults ages 19 and older who have not previously received a pneumococcal vaccine and adults ages 19-65 with certain underlying medical conditions regardless of which condition or risk factor is present.
- Lowering the age group for the HPV vaccine to begin at ages 9-10.

See the following charts for more information:

[Birth-18 Years Immunization Schedule | CDC](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Interim COVID-19 Immunization Schedule for Ages 5 Years and Older \(cdc.gov\)](#)

[Adult Immunization Schedule by Vaccine and Age Group | CDC](#)

[Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule \(cdc.gov\)](#)

Pneumococcal Vaccine Changes

The CDC has also updated its guidance for pneumococcal vaccines for children and adults.

- CDC recommends all children under two years of age, and children ages 2-28 with certain medical conditions receive either PCV13 or PCV13 combined with PPSV23 pneumococcal vaccines.
- Dosing schedules and formulation should be determined based on an individual's age, vaccination history, and medical condition.
- Providers should use the [Birth to 18 schedule](#) to determine patient-specific dosing.

The adult schedule has also been updated according to age, vaccination history, and medical condition.

- CDC recommends adults ages 19-64 with certain medical conditions, and adults ages 65 and older receive PCV15, PCV20 or PPSV23 depending on the individual's age, vaccination history, and medical condition.
- Providers should use the [Pneumococcal Vaccine Timing for Adults](#) chart to determine patient-specific dosing.

For patient-specific guidance on both the children's and adult's pneumococcal vaccine, providers should use the [PneumoRecs VaxAdvisor Mobile App](#).

- CDC provides a detailed breakdown of patient-specific guidance for providers. Read the guidance [here](#).

VACCINE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Johnson & Johnson Shelf-Life Extension

The FDA has approved a shelf-life extension for the [Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine](#).

- The shelf-life extension has been updated from **six months to nine months and applies to all inventory due to expire on March 7, 2022, or later.**
- Inventory dated prior to March 7 should be disposed of and reported as waste.
- The shelf-life extension applies to refrigerated vials held in accordance with manufacturer's storage conditions.
- Storage and handling information can be found [here](#).
- Providers can check expiry dates on the [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Expiry Checker](#).

Moderna Updates

The FDA has updated the label and [EUA fact sheet](#) for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

The box label has been updated to indicate:

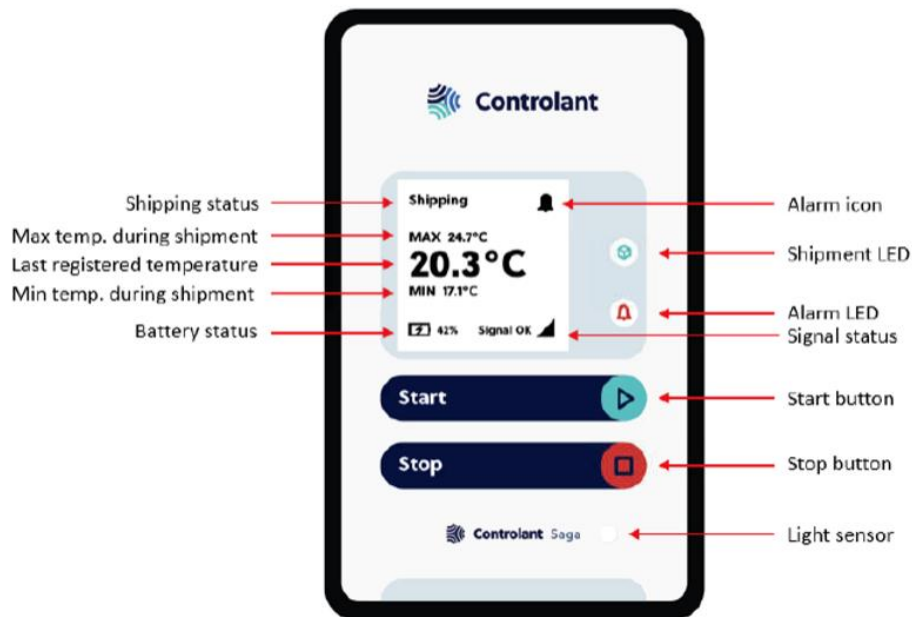
- Total volume of the multi-dose vial.
- Dosing information on primary and booster shots are listed on the label.
- Maximum number of punctures per vial.
- The EUA Fact Sheet was updated to include information about the BLA approval of Spikevax.
- For more information, please refer to the [Administration Overview for Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine | CDC](#).

Pfizer Shipping Data Loggers

Pfizer will be transitioning their data loggers to an updated version.

- The new logger will be called SAGA Logger and will provide improved monitoring and reporting during shipment.
- A new LCD tracker display shows more detailed temperature information of the contents during transit.
- The SAGA Logger is larger and requires return shipping in the provided packaging.
- Providers will **receive an email reporting** the temperature during shipping. The email will record any breach in temperature protocol.
- For additional information, see the [Pfizer Webinar Series for Healthcare Providers](#).

Controlant SAGA Logger



Pfizer general storage reminders

- Pfizer pediatric (Orange cap) and the Adult Tris (Gray cap) vaccines will be shipped on dry ice in smaller disposable shippers. Please note, the **smaller shipping containers for the Gray cap and Orange cap formulation cannot be utilized for storage**.
- The Orange cap and Gray cap vaccines must be placed in ultra-cold freezers or refrigerators upon receipt. **Do not store them in a standard freezer.**
- Provider sites must prepare for use of an ULT freezer or refrigerator with the Pfizer Tris formulations (Orange cap and Gray cap). View the product information [here](#).

Vaccine Expiration Date Reminders

Providers should regularly **check for expired inventory** and immediately remove it. Please use the available tools to stay current with product expiration dates.

- [Expiry Information for Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Moderna Vial Expiration Date Look-up Tool](#)
- [J&J Expiration Date Lookup Tool](#)

PROMOTING EQUITY

CDC Updates Health Equity Resources

The CDC has updated its [Health Equity resources](#) for providers.

- The updated site offers definitions, strategies to address disparities, and connections to outside initiatives.
- Tools focus on communications and understanding communities' needs.
- Among the tools included are focused resources for specific populations, strategic communications, and recent studies.

Pediatric COVID-19 vaccines for VFC Providers

The Illinois Department of Public Health encourages providers enrolled in the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) to offer pediatric COVID-19 vaccines. This assures that pediatric patients have access to COVID-19 vaccines and that they can be vaccinated in their medical homes. This will be even more important when the vaccine is approved for children under 5 years of age.

- The [CDC recommends](#) children ages 5-11 be vaccinated against COVID-19 in a two-dose series, three weeks apart.
- The formula is an age-appropriate dose smaller than the adult vaccine. See the dosing and storage information [here](#).
- The children's COVID-19 vaccine may be [administered at the same time](#) as other vaccines, such as the flu.
- Providers **are not required to reach a 100-dose threshold** to order vaccines and will not be penalized for wastage due to low turnout or small patient population. Providers should not wait for single-dose vials to begin vaccinating children.
- See the [COVID-19 Vaccine for Children guide](#) for more information.

See the following resources for more information:

[Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine \(5 Through 11 Years of Age\) | CDC](#)

COMMUNICATION RESOURCES

2022 Flu Season Toolkit

The CDC has created a [Flu Season Digital Media Toolkit](#) with shareable materials for social media.

- The kit includes images, graphics, videos, and downloadable print materials.
- Resources are available in Spanish and other languages.
- Media resources can be used on websites and social media pages, and print-ready resources are available for providers' facilities.