



Guidance for Administration of the Second Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine Effective February 7, 2021

Background:

There are currently two COVID-19 vaccines authorized for emergency use in the United States: BNT-162b2, produced by Pfizer-BioNTech; and mRNA-1273, produced by Moderna. Each of these vaccines have been granted Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA based on a two-dose series. Recipients of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine are to receive the doses 21 days apart, and recipients of the Moderna vaccine are to receive the doses 28 days apart.

Receipt of the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine is necessary and critical to ensuring optimal protection against COVID-19, based on the high degree of effectiveness demonstrated in phase 3 clinical trials of each of the vaccines currently authorized for emergency use.

Plan immediately for the second COVID-19 vaccine dose:

The second dose must be administered 21 days (Pfizer vaccine) or 28 days (Moderna vaccine) after the first dose. To facilitate this, all providers **must** schedule the second dose appointment for recipients **at the time the first dose is administered**. Those who receive the first vaccine must return to the same location to receive the second dose. It is important to send frequent reminders about when and where to receive the second dose. Individuals must receive two doses of the same vaccine (e.g., you must receive two doses of the Pfizer vaccine or two doses of the Moderna vaccine). They are **not** interchangeable.

Planning for a second dose, including making an appointment for the second dose, will need to occur for all facility staff and those coming from outside the facility. However, please note the initial allocation is for the first dose of the vaccine. **Do not reserve first dose vaccine for the second dose.** A second dose allocation will be shipped to your facility in time for administration of the second dose at the required interval. **The second shipment must be reserved for second doses.** Facilities will be notified of the timing and quantity of the second dose shipment so that it can be separated from first doses in your inventory.

Provider Responsibilities:

Providers must report to NYSIIS/CIR every time a dose is administered. [Executive Order 202.89](#) and the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement require providers to submit all COVID-19 vaccination information fields within 24 hours of vaccine administration, for both the first and second dose of vaccine.

Entities that administered the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine are responsible for administering the second dose to all vaccine recipients.

Managing vaccine inventory:

It is the responsibility of the administering facility to track and manage inventory for first and second dose administration.

Vaccine designated for the second dose will automatically be allocated and delivered to each site.

Shipments of COVID-19 vaccine are not differentiated into first doses and second doses. NYSDOH will inform providers when an order has been placed for second doses, but the shipment will not be labeled as such. If a provider is receiving a new allocation of first doses combined with second doses for patients previously vaccinated, such doses may all come in one shipment, depending on when the orders were placed.

Providers should consider separating first and second dose inventory, to ensure that first dose from second dose supplies are not inadvertently mixed.

Additional considerations when planning second dose management:

- Facilities administering vaccine may want to consider specific days or clinic hours for second dose administration.
- Second dose appointments must be made **at the time the first dose is administered**, for a day either 21 days later (Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine) or 28 days later (Moderna vaccine).
- Providers must send frequent reminders about specific appointment information for the second dose.

Other information about second doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines:

- There is a grace period for receiving the second dose that allows individuals to receive the vaccine if it is inadvertently given up to four days before the second dose administration date recommended by the FDA.
 - However, plan to administer the second dose as close to the recommended date as possible.
- When offering second dose clinics, providers must maintain a second dose standby list of individuals who are due for a second dose in the next two days. The standby list must be activated if there are no-shows or extra doses available.
- The second dose may be administered after the 21- or 28-day window for the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine, respectively. It is optimal to receive the second dose as close as possible to the correct day, but 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, in these limited circumstances, for administration up to 6 weeks (42 days) after the first dose. The vaccine series does not need to be restarted even if the second dose is administered late.
- **COVID-19 vaccine products are NOT interchangeable.** Persons who received the first dose with one COVID-19 vaccine product must receive the second dose with the same vaccine product. However, if a different vaccine is inadvertently given, the second dose does not need to be repeated.

Other Second Dose Scenarios:

- Limited circumstances may arise where individuals will need to receive their second dose at a different location than their first. Due to limited supply, each such circumstance must be evaluated to determine the most appropriate solution, including requiring the patient to return to original location if feasible, evaluating the impact of extending the interval between doses, or making arrangements for receipt of the second dose at a different provider.
- Providers who have determined that the individual cannot return to the location where they received their first dose should coordinate with the Hub Lead Hospital to find a provider who has extra second doses of the appropriate vaccine to vaccinate the individual.
- Second dose vials may not yield the same number of “extra” doses as the first dose vials. If a provider is in need of additional second doses, they should contact their Hub Lead Hospital to determine if a nearby provider has extra second doses and could accommodate their patient for their second dose. If the Hub Lead Hospital is unable to assist, the Hub Lead representative must contact NYSDOH at CovidVaccineNotUsed@health.ny.gov.
- If a provider has extra second doses due to no-shows or other circumstances, the provider should reach out to the Hub Lead Hospital to assess if the Hub has a standby list of individuals who are ready for their second dose.
- If extra doses are available after consulting the second dose standby list, a provider may, in very limited circumstances, seek approval from CovidVaccineNotUsed@health.ny.gov to use second doses, that would otherwise be wasted, as first doses. If extra doses are used in this manner, it must immediately be reported to CovidVaccineNotUsed@health.ny.gov to plan for second doses for the individuals who were vaccinated.

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine:

- The second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is due to be administered 21 days after the first dose was administered.
- There is a four-day grace period, so that if a dose is given on days 17-20 after the first vaccination, that second dose is considered valid. However, doses inadvertently administered more than four days too early must be reported in NYSIIS/CIR as such but should not be repeated.
- Additional ancillary kits (“mega kits”) will be sent with orders of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to support using 6th doses. The “mega kit” contains supplies for 1,024 doses. Two additional boxes with supplies for 105 doses each will also be shipped, for a total supply to give 1,234 doses.
- Please see the [FDA fact sheet for health care providers administering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#) for more information.

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine:

- The second dose of the Moderna vaccine is due to be administered 28 days after the first dose was administered.

- There is a four-day grace period, so that if a dose is given on days 24-27 after the first vaccination, that second dose is considered valid. However, doses inadvertently administered more than four days too early must be reported in NYSIIS/CIR as such but should not be repeated.
- Please see the [FDA fact sheet for health care providers administering the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#) for more information.