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NEW MEXICO HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) ALERT

CDC and FDA Shorten Booster Interval for Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

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Background

On January 7, 2022, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) amended the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine emergency use authorization (EUA) and approved a shorter booster interval following the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine primary series. The Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) endorsed the recommendation the same day.

Individuals 18 years and older who received the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine as their primary series are now recommended to get a booster **5 months** from the completion of the primary series. Previously, the time frame was 6 months.

The New Mexico Medical Advisory Team (MAT) reviewed and concurred with this recommendation.

Recommendations for Clinicians:

- For adults 18 years and older who had a primary Moderna series, a booster dose should now be administered at least **five months** after completion of the primary series. Previously the booster was recommended at 6 months.
- The Moderna booster dose remains 0.25ml (or 50 µg), regardless of the primary series it follows. This is half the dose given for the primary series.
- Immune compromised individuals getting an “additional primary dose” of Moderna 28 days after the primary series should continue to receive the full dose (0.5ml/100 µg) for the third shot.
- Both mRNA vaccines now have the same booster schedule. Heterologous boosters (mix and match) are authorized for those 18 and older. The mRNA vaccines are preferred in most situations.

Safety Considerations¹:

Data suggest that there may be an increased risk of myocarditis and pericarditis in males under 40 years of age following the second dose of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine relative to other authorized or approved mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

Although post marketing data following a booster dose of mRNA vaccines are limited, available evidence suggests a lower myocarditis risk following a booster dose relative to the risk following the primary series second dose.

¹ [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)

The CDC has published considerations related to myocarditis and pericarditis after vaccination, including for vaccination of individuals with a history of myocarditis or pericarditis: [Clinical Considerations: Myocarditis after mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#).

Access to Vaccine Boosters Doses in New Mexico

- New Mexico COVID-19 vaccine providers can immediately implement the above recommendation.
- The statewide registration app has implemented the above recommendation for scheduling. People can schedule at: [Get Vaccinated New Mexico | NMDOH \(vaccinenm.org\)](#)
- 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](#).

Additional Resources:

1. Updated CDC page on boosters: [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots | CDC](#)
2. Moderna EUA: [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine \(fda.gov\)](#)
3. Clinical recommendations have been updated: [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)
4. 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 \(rtscustomer.com\)](#)

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND RESPONSE

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Do I qualify for a COVID-19 vaccine booster and which one?

Which primary vaccine series did you complete?	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	Janssen (J&J)
You can get a booster if:	It's been at least 5 months since completing a primary series AND you are:	It's been at least 5 months since completing a primary series AND you are:	It's been at least 2 months since completing primary vaccination AND you are:
	Age 12+	Age 18+	Age 18+
If eligible, you can get a booster of:	Pfizer-BioNTech* Moderna Janssen (J&J) <small>*Only Pfizer-BioNTech can be used as a booster in those age 12-17.</small>	Moderna Pfizer-BioNTech Janssen (J&J)	Janssen (J&J) Pfizer-BioNTech Moderna

For more information, visit www.fda.gov/covid19vaccines.



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.