

Covid Vaccines Are Great But Too Complicated

Emily Dalton, M.D.



Currently there are 4 different types of vaccines: Pfizer, Moderna, J&J and now, Novovax. The Pfizer and Moderna are approved for children of varying age ranges. The quantity, the dosing interval and the number of vaccines approved vary depending on numerous factors, and recommendations keep changing. Below is a flow chart from the August edition of Pediatric News that details the current guidelines. It's a nightmare for the medical assistants who have to try and administer these correctly. Mistakes in administration are inevitable when the schedule is this complex.

Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Dosing Quick Reference Guide
 American Academy of Pediatrics
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Age at First Dose	Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Products			Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Products		
	3 mcg/0.2 ml (dilute before use)	10 mcg/0.2 ml (dilute before use)	30 mcg/0.3 ml	25 mcg/0.25 ml	50 mcg/0.5 ml	100 mcg/0.5 ml booster: 50 mcg/0.25 ml
6 months – 4 years	Dose 1 Maroon cap	Dose 2 3-8 weeks after dose 1 Maroon cap	Dose 3 at least 8 weeks after dose 2 Maroon cap	Dose 1 Blue cap/magenta label	Dose 2 4-8 weeks after dose 1 Blue cap/magenta label	
5 years	Dose 1 Orange cap	Dose 2 3-8 weeks after dose 1 Orange cap	Dose 3 at least 5 months after dose 2 Orange cap	Dose 1 Blue cap/magenta label	Dose 2 4-8 weeks after dose 1 Blue cap/magenta label	
6 – 11 years	Dose 1 Orange cap	Dose 2 3-8 weeks after dose 1 Orange cap	Dose 3 at least 5 months after dose 2 Orange cap	Dose 1 Blue cap/purple label	Dose 2 4-8 weeks after dose 1 Blue cap/purple label	
12 – 17 years	Dose 1 Gray cap	Dose 2 3-8 weeks after dose 1 Gray cap	Dose 3 at least 5 months after dose 2 Gray cap	Dose 1 Red cap/blue label	Dose 2 4-8 weeks after dose 1 Red cap/blue label	
18 – 49 years	Dose 1 Gray cap	Dose 2 3-8 weeks after dose 1 Gray cap	Dose 3 at least 5 months after dose 2 Gray cap	Dose 1 Red cap/blue label	Dose 2 4-8 weeks after dose 1 Red cap/blue label	Dose 3 at least 5 months after dose 2 Red cap/blue label OR Pfizer's Gray cap
Patients turning a different age between primary series doses: Children should receive the dose recommended for age at the time of vaccination.*						
4 years turning 5 years**	Dose 1 Maroon cap	Dose 2 3-8 weeks after dose 1 Maroon cap (if 4 years old) Orange cap (if 5 years old)	Dose 3 at least 8 weeks after dose 2 Orange cap	Dose 1 Blue cap/magenta label	Dose 2 4-8 weeks after dose 1 Blue cap/purple label	
11 years turning 12 years	Dose 1 Orange cap	Dose 2 3-8 weeks after dose 1 Gray cap	Dose 3 at least 5 months after dose 2 Gray cap	Dose 1 Blue cap/purple label	Dose 2 4-8 weeks after dose 1 Red cap/blue label	

*CDC and AAP recommendation; FDA allows for children crossing age categories to receive either the lower or higher dose after the birthday, even if this were to occur, these doses would count and repeat vaccination is not necessary.
 **Children turning 4 to 5 years of age between Dose 1 and Dose 2 also have the option to receive a 2-dose primary series using orange cap.

Primary series **Booster dose**

I have spent my career vaccinating children, and for the first time I am trying to convince parents to get a vaccine that does not actually prevent the disease. It's confusing for families to go through the process of vaccinating and then end up sick with covid. On an intellectual level people understand that the vaccine only prevents complications, but somehow they remain disappointed and become less confident in our medical recommendations when they get Covid anyway.

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As far as young children are concerned, the Covid vaccine is currently the most reviled of any of our childhood vaccines. Sometimes when I offer it to the family of a toddler, the parents give me a look of disbelief. The majority of parents are not worried about their children getting Covid and don't want to vaccinate for it. It seems as though the Covid vaccine has become the most hated vaccine of all time. I imagine there is a lot of misinformation on the internet about it. The only silver lining in all this is that now people don't hate the HPV vaccine as much. In fact, the HPV vaccine has become quite readily accepted.

Hopefully the Covid vaccine schedule and administration guidelines will be simplified soon.

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