

Standing Order for Administering 2025-2026 COVID-19 Vaccine

I. Purpose

COVID-19 continues to be a significant cause of morbidity in the state of Arizona with consequences that include loss of work and school time, short-term disability, hospitalizations, and in some cases death. The impact of COVID-19 is significant for Arizona communities and negatively impacts its healthcare systems. The purpose of this standing order is to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with COVID-19 in the state of Arizona.

II. Authority

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) is the state agency responsible for public health in Arizona, which includes the authority to investigate, control and prevent reportable communicable diseases to ensure the public health and safety of Arizonans.

This standing order has been created under the review and signature of a physician in their official ADHS capacity and grants authority to authorized health care professionals (HCP) to vaccinate all persons aged 6 months and older (pending their scope of practice), including pregnant individuals, with the 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine as supported by evidence-based guidance and this order.

Furthermore, the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act Declaration relating to COVID-19, including all relevant amendments and declarations, authorizes categories of Qualified Persons to prescribe, dispense, and administer COVID-19 vaccines through December 31, 2029. Should this authorization pursuant to the PREP Act discontinue prior to its anticipated expiration date, HCP may continue relying on this order in accordance with existing Arizona statutes and rules governing immunization.

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III. **Policy**

A standing order is a written directive that allows authorized HCPs to order or administer immunizations, vaccines, emergency medications or devices for individuals who meet the criteria set forth in the standing order. As defined in this order, HCPs include those who hold an active license such as physicians (A.R.S. § 32-1401), physician assistants (A.R.S. § 32-2531), advanced practice registered nurses or nurse practitioners (ARS 32-1601), and clinical pharmacists (A.R.S. § 32-1901).

The protocol included has been reviewed by the Arizona Board of Pharmacy, but this standing order is not limited only to Pharmacists. This standing order authorizes HCPs as defined to assess, screen, educate, order, and administer COVID-19 vaccines consistent with this protocol and the Standing Order. It also authorizes a licensed, qualified pharmacist to delegate the administration of COVID-19 vaccines to an active, licensed, trained intern and pharmacy technician who is supervised by a qualified pharmacist. NOTE: Pharmacists in Arizona are authorized to immunize individuals 6 years of age and older pursuant to this standing order, in line with Arizona law.

IV. **Procedure**

Licensed HCPs are required to evaluate criteria of eligibility for vaccination, provide appropriate information and education regarding adverse side effects, screen for any contraindications to vaccination, prepare and administer the vaccine per the product manufacturer recommendations and perform appropriate documentation regarding vaccination. Vaccine administration sites need to be prepared to provide immediate medical attention in case of vaccine-related emergencies.

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The following steps are necessary to apply the COVID-19 vaccination effectively:

1. Patient Assessment

- Evaluate an individual's need for COVID-19 vaccination.
- Determine vaccination status, age, and risk category (routine, high-risk, or immunocompromised).
- Utilize evidence-based guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. In addition, utilize the new comprehensive evidence review by the Vaccine Integrity Project at the University of Minnesota that endorses the ongoing safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Refer to **Appendix A** for routine vaccination schedules and **Appendix B** for schedules for moderately or severely immunocompromised individuals.

2. Screening for Contraindications and Precautions

Contraindications

• Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to a prior COVID-19 vaccine dose or to a vaccine component.

Precautions

- Non-severe allergy to a vaccine component.
- Immediate, but non-severe allergic reaction (<4 hours) after a prior COVID-19 vaccine dose.
- Moderate to severe acute illness, with or without fever.
- History of MIS-C or MIS-A.
- Myocarditis or pericarditis within 3 weeks of a COVID-19 vaccine.

If contraindications or precautions are present, defer vaccination and refer the patient to their healthcare provider.

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3. Patient Education

- Provide each patient, parent, guardian, or caregiver with the most current COVID-19
 Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) before administration.
- Offer VIS in the patient's preferred language, if available.
- Allow time for questions to ensure informed consent.

4. Preparation for Vaccine Administration

• Choose the needle gauge, length, and injection site according to the following charts:

Age	Needle Gauge	Needle Length	Injection Site
1–12 months	22–25	1 inch	Vastus lateralis (anterolateral thigh) – only site
1–2 years	22–25	1–1¼ inch (vastus lateralis); 5/8–1 inch (deltoid if developed)	Vastus lateralis (preferred); deltoid if adequate muscle mass
3–10 years	22–25	1 inch (standard); 5/8 inch only if skin stretched tightly, not bunched, 90° angle	Deltoid (preferred); vastus lateralis acceptable
11–18 years	22–25	1–1.5 inches (most 1 inch; 1.5 for larger adolescents); 5/8 inch only if skin stretched tightly	Deltoid (preferred); vastus lateralis also acceptable
19 years and older	22–25	1 inch (routine for females <90 kg, males <118 kg); 1.5 inches (females ≥90 kg; males ≥118 kg)	Deltoid (preferred); vastus lateralis if deltoid not accessible

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5. Vaccine Administration

- Administer the age-appropriate COVID-19 vaccine product and dose according to patient age and immune status.
- Follow Appendix A (routine vaccination schedule) and Appendix B (immunocompromised schedule).

COVID-19 Vaccine Products and Available Dosage (2025–2026)

Age Group	Vaccine Product	Available Dosage
6 months – 11 years	Moderna Spikevax	0.25 mL / 25 μg
5 – 11 years	Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty)	0.3 mL / 10 μg
12 years and older	Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty)	0.3 mL / 30 μg
12 years and older	Moderna (Spikevax)	0.5 mL / 50 μg
12 years and older	Novavax (Nuvaxovid)	0.5 mL / 5 μg rS and 50 μg Matrix-M adjuvant
12 years and older	Moderna (mNEXSPIKE)	0.2ml / 10 μg

6. Documentation

Those who administer vaccines shall:

- Record the following information:
 - Patient name, DOB, address.

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- Vaccine and/or emergency medication manufacturer lot number, expiration date, date of administration, dose, route, and site.
- Name and title of qualified licensee administering the vaccine.
- Name of the qualified pharmacist that supervised a qualified pharmacy intern or qualified pharmacy technician.
- VIS publication date and date provided.
- Consultation and other professional information provided to the patient by the pharmacist or intern.
- For an immunization or a vaccine given to an eligible minor patient, a consent form signed by a parent or guardian.

Document in:

- The patient's prescription record.
- The patient's personal immunization card.
- The Arizona State Immunization Information System (ASIIS) as required by state law.
- Notify the person's identified primary care provider or physician within 48 hours after administering immunization, vaccine, or emergency medication.

7. Emergency Preparedness

- Keep epinephrine, corticosteroids, albuterol, and antihistamines immediately available.
- Vaccinators shall know how to recognize and respond to vaccine reactions, including, but not limited to, an anaphylaxis reaction.
- Pharmacists shall be present to administer emergency medication if an adverse event occurs.
- Observe patients for at least 15 minutes post-vaccination (30 minutes for those with allergy history).
- Administer vaccines with the patient seated or lying down when possible.
- Ensure vaccinators are trained to recognize and manage anaphylaxis and other acute reactions.

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8. Adverse Event Reporting

- Report all adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at https://vaers.hhs.gov.
- Report all clinically significant adverse events to the patient's primary care provider within 48 hours.

9. Effective Period

This standing order will be reviewed and may be updated if there is relevant new evidence, data, reporting requirements or legal language that would impact the process or utilization.

This standing order may be revised or withdrawn at any time by the signee or a higher-ranking physician at the Department with prescribing ability.

This standing order is issued by Dr. Richard Carmona, M.D., M.P.H. at the Arizona Department of Health Services (NPI#1932532249). It will be reviewed as needed on an annual basis.



Sep 18, 2025

Dr. Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., FACS **Arizona Department of Health Services** [Expiration date: 9/17/2026]

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Appendices A & B 2025-2026 COVID-19 Vaccination Schedules

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Appendix A: Routine COVID-19 vaccination schedule (NOT immunocompromised)

NOTE: For **pharmacists**, Arizona law allows only for ages 6 years and older.

Table 1a: Ages 6-23 months

COVID-19 Vaccination History (before 2025–2026 vaccine)	Number of 2025–2026 Doses Indicated	Recommended 2025–2026 Vaccine and Interval
Unvaccinated	2	Dose 1 (Moderna Spikevax): Day 0; Dose 2 (Moderna Spikevax): 4–8 weeks after Dose 1
1 dose Moderna	1	Dose 1 (Moderna Spikevax): At least 4–8 weeks after last dose
≥ 2 doses of Moderna	1	Dose 1 (Moderna Spikevax) ≥ 8 weeks after the last dose.
1 dose Pfizer-BioNTech	2	Dose 1 (Moderna Spikevax): At least 4–8 weeks after last dose; Dose 2 (Moderna Spikevax): At least 8 weeks
		after Dose 1
2 doses Pfizer-BioNTech	1	Dose 1 (Moderna Spikevax): At least 8 weeks after last dose
3 or more doses Pfizer-BioNTech	1	Dose 1 (Moderna Spikevax): At least 8 weeks after last dose

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Table 1b: Ages 2-4 years

COVID-19 Vaccination History (before 2025–2026 vaccine)	Number of 2025–2026 Doses Indicated	Recommended 2025–2026 Vaccine and Interval
Unvaccinated	1	Dose 1 (Moderna Spikevax): Day 0
≥ 1 dose of any mRNA vaccine	1	Dose 1 (Moderna Spikevax): At least 8 weeks after last dose

Table 1c: Ages 5-11 years

COVID-19 vaccination history* before 2025–2026 vaccine	Number of 2025–2026 doses indicated	Recommended 2025–2026 vaccine‡ and interval between doses
Unvaccinated	1	Moderna Spikevax or Pfizer: Day 0
Previously vaccinated (≥1 mRNA dose)	1	Moderna Spikevax or Pfizer: ≥8 weeks after last dose

^{*}History includes original, bivalent, 2023–2024, 2024–2025 vaccines.

‡Moderna: 0.25 mL/25 μg; Pfizer: 0.3 mL/10 μg.

Note: Prefer same manufacturer; substitute if unavailable.

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Table 1d: Ages 12-18 years

COVID-19 vaccination history* before 2025–2026 vaccine Number of 2025–2026 doses indicated		Recommended 2025–2026 vaccine‡ and interval between doses
Unvaccinated	1 (Moderna Spikevax, Pfizer, mNEXSPIKE, Nuvaxovid)	Moderna Spikevax, Pfizer, mNEXSPIKE, Nuvaxovid: Day 0
≥1 or more doses of Moderna/Pfizer/Novavax	1	Moderna Spikevax, Pfizer, Nuvaxovid ≥ 8 weeks after last dose mNEXSPIKE ≥ 12 weeks after last dose,

Table 1e: Ages 19-64 years (including pregnancy)

COVID-19 vaccination history* Number of 2025–2026 doses indicated		Recommended 2025–2026 vaccine‡ and interval between doses
Unvaccinated	1 (if Moderna Spikevax and Pfizer) 2 (if Nuvaxovid)	Moderna Spikevax, Pfizer: Day 0 Nuvaxovid Dose 1: Day 0; Dose 2: 3–8 weeks after Dose 1§
≥1 dose mRNA (Moderna/Pfizer)	1	Moderna Spikevax, Pfizer, Nuvaxovid ≥ 8 weeks after last dose

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1 dose Novavax	1	Nuvaxovid Dose 1: 3–8 weeks after last dose§¶
≥2 doses Novavax	1	Moderna Spikevax, Pfizer, Nuvaxovid ≥ 8 weeks after the last dose

[‡]Moderna: 0.5 mL/50 μg; Pfizer: 0.3 mL/30 μg; mNEXSPIKE: 0.2 mL/10 μg; Nuvaxovid: 0.5 mL/5 μg rS + 50 μg Matrix-M. \$8\$-week interval may reduce myocarditis risk.

Note: mNEXSPIKE currently recommended by AAP for ages 12–18 years old.

Table 1f: Ages ≥65 years

COVID-19 vaccination history* before 2025–2026 vaccine	Number of 2025–2026 doses indicated	Recommended 2025–2026 vaccine‡ and interval between doses
Unvaccinated	2 (Moderna/Pfizer) 2 (Nuvaxovid + booster)	Moderna Spikevax, Pfizer, Dose 1 Day 0; Dose 2 at 6 months after last dose (min interval 2 months),
		Nuvaxovid: Dose 1: Day 0, Dose 2: 3 - 8 weeks after Dose 3: at 6 months after Dose 2 (minimum interval 2 months)

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[¶]If >8 weeks since first Novavax dose, administer Moderna, Pfizer, Nuvaxovid 2025–2026 vaccine without restarting. ≥ 12 weeks for mNEXSPIKE



≥1 dose mRNA (Moderna/Pfizer)	2	Moderna Spikevax, Pfizer,or Nuvaxovid: Dose 1 ≥8 weeks after last dose; Dose 2 at 6 months after I Dose1 (minimum interval 2 months)
1 dose Novavax	2	Nuvaxovid Dose 1: 3–8 weeks after last dose; If more than 8 weeks after most recent dose, administer 1 dose 2025–26 Moderna or Novavax or Pfizer-BioNTech. Dose 2 at 6 months after Dose 1 (minimum interval 2 months)
≥2 doses Novavax	2	Moderna, Pfizer, or Nuvaxovid: Dose 1 ≥8 weeks after last dose; Dose 2 at 6 months afterDose 1 (minimum interval 2 months)

 $$\mu$$ moderna: 0.5 mL/50 μg; Pfizer: 0.3 mL/30 μg; g; Novavax: 0.5 mL/5 μg rS + 50 μg Matrix-M. 6-month dosing can be with Moderna Spikevax, Pfizer-BioNTech, or Nuvaxovid. Source: AAFP

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Appendix B: COVID-19 vaccination schedule [IMMUNOCOMPROMISED]

NOTE: For **pharmacists**, Arizona statute allows only for ages 6 years and older.

Table 2a: Ages 6 months – 4 years [IMMUNOCOMPROMISED]

COVID-19 Vaccination History	Number of 2025–2026 Doses Indicated	Recommended 2025–2026 Vaccine and Interval
Unvaccinated	4	Dose 1 (Moderna Spikevax): Day 0 Dose 2 (Moderna Spikevax): 4 weeks after Dose 1 Dose 3 (Moderna Spikevax): At least 4 weeks after Dose 2 Dose 4 (Moderna Spikevax): 6 months after Dose 3 (minimum interval 2 months) Additional doses: May be administered under shared clinical decision-making ≥2 months after last dose
1 dose Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech	3	Dose 1 (Moderna Spikevax): 4 weeks after last dose Dose 2 (Moderna Spikevax): At least4weeks after Dose 1 Dose 3 (Moderna Spikevax): 6 months (minimum interval 2 months) after Dose 2 Additional doses: May be administered under shared clinical decision-making ≥2 months after last dose
2 doses Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech	2	For 2 previous doses of Moderna Spikevax: Dose 1 (Moderna Spikevax): At least 4 weeks after last dose Dose 2 (Moderna Spikevax): 6 months (minimum interval 2 months) after Dose 1 For 2 Previous doses of Pfizer-BionTech: Dose 1 Moderna Spikevax: At least 8 weeks after last dose Dose 2 Moderna Spikevax: 6 months (minimum interval 2 months) after Dose 1

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		Additional doses: May be administered under shared clinical decision-making ≥2 months after last dose
3 or more doses Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech	2	Dose 1 (Moderna Spikevax): At least 8 weeks after last dose Dose 2 (Moderna Spikevax): 6 months (minimum interval 2 months) after Dose 1 Additional doses: May be administered under shared clinical decision-making ≥2 months after last dose‡

[‡] Additional doses may be administered, informed by the clinical judgment of a healthcare provider and personal preference and circumstances.

Table 2b: Ages 5–11 years [IMMUNOCOMPROMISED]

COVID-19 vaccination history* before 2025–2026 vaccine	Number of 2025–2026 doses indicated	Recommended 2025–2026 vaccine‡ and interval between doses
Unvaccinated	4	Moderna Spikevax path: Dose 1 Day 0; Dose 2 at 4 weeks; Dose 3 ≥4 weeks after Dose 2; Dose 4 at 6 months after Dose 3 (minimum interval 2 months) Pfizer path: Dose 1 Day 0; Dose 2 at 3 weeks; Dose 3 ≥4 weeks after Dose 2; Dose 4 at 6 months after Dose 3 (minimum interval 2 months) Additional: ≥2 months under shared decision-making
1 dose Moderna Spikevax	3	Moderna Spikevax Dose 1: 4 weeks after last dose; Dose 2 ≥4 weeks after Dose 1; Dose 3 at 6 months after Dose 2 (minimum interval 2 months)

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		Additional: ≥2 months under shared decision-making
2 doses Moderna Spikevax	2	Moderna Spikevax Dose 1: ≥4 weeks after last dose; Dose 2 at 6 months after Dose 1 (minimum interval 2 months) Additional: ≥2 months under shared decision-making
1 dose Pfizer	3	Pfizer Dose 1: 3 weeks after last dose; Dose 2 ≥4 weeks after Dose 1; Dose 3 at 6 months after Dose 2 (minimum interval 2 months) Additional: ≥2 months under shared decision-making
2 doses Pfizer	2	Pfizer Dose 1: ≥4 weeks after last dose; Dose 2 at 6 months after Dose 1 (minimum interval 2 months) Additional: ≥2 months under shared decision-making
Completed 3-dose series (Moderna Spikevax or Pfizer)	2	Moderna Spikevax or Pfizer Dose 1: ≥8 weeks after last dose; Dose 2 at 6 months after Dose 1 (minimum interval 2 months) Additional: ≥2 months under shared decision-making

 \pm Moderna Spikevax: 0.25 mL/25 µg; Pfizer: 0.3 mL/10 µg.

Note: No maximum doses; may repeat ≥2 months under decision-making. 6-month dosing can be with Moderna Spikevax or Pfizer-BioNTech. Source: American Academy of Pediatrics.

Table 2c: Ages 12-18 years [IMMUNOCOMPROMISED]

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COVID-19 vaccination history* before 2025–2026 vaccine	Number of 2025–2026 doses indicated	Recommended 2025–2026 vaccine§ and interval between doses
Unvaccinated	4 (Moderna Spikevax, Pfizer) 3 (Nuvaxovid)	Moderna Spikevax/mNEXSPIKE: Dose 1 Day 0; Dose 2 at 4 weeks; Dose 3 ≥4 weeks after Dose 2r; Dose 4 at 6 months after Dose 3 (minimum interval 2 months) Pfizer: Dose 1 Day 0; Dose 2 at 3 weeks; Dose 3 ≥4 weeks after Dose 2r; Dose 4 at 6 months after Dose 3 (minimum interval 2 months) Nuvaxovid: Dose 1 Day 0; Dose 2 at 3 weeks; Dose 3 at 6 months after Dose 2 (minimum interval 2 months). Additional: ≥2 months under shared decision-making
1 dose mRNA (Moderna Spikeva)	3	Moderna Spikevax/mNEXSPIKE: Dose 1: 4 weeks after last dose; Dose 2: ≥4 weeks after Dose 1; Dose 3: at 6 months after Dose 2 (minimum interval 2 months).
2 Doses Moderna Spikevax	2	Moderna Spikevax/mNEXSPIKE: Dose 1:≥ 4 weeks after the last dose. Dose 2: at 6 months after Dose 1 (minimum interval 2 months). Additional: ≥2 months under shared decision-making
1 dose of Pfizer	3	Pfizer Dose 1: 3 weeks after the last dose. Dose 2: ≥4 weeks after Dose 1. Dose 3: at 6 months after Dose 2 (minimum interval 2 months).

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		Additional: ≥2 months under shared decision-making
2 Doses of Pfizer	2	Pfizer Dose 1: ≥4 weeks after the last dose. Dose 2: at 6 months after dose 1 (minimum interval 2 months). Additional: ≥2 months under shared decision-making
1 Dose of Novavax	2	Nuvaxovid Dose 1: 3 weeks after the last dose. Dose 2: at 6 months after Dose 1 (minimum interval 2 months) Additional: ≥2 months under shared decision-making
≥ 3 doses of Moderna Spikevax, or Pfizer. ≥ 2 doses of Novavax	2	Moderna Spikevax or mNEXSPIKE or Pfizer or Nuvaxovid: Dose 1: ≥ 8 weeks after the last dose. Dose 2: 6 months after Dose 1 (minimum interval 2 months). Additional: ≥2 months under shared
		decision-making

Moderna Spikevax: 0.5 mL/50 μ g; Pfizer: 0.3 mL/30 μ g; mNEXSPIKE: 0.2 mL/10 μ g; Nuvaxovid: 0.5 mL/5 μ g rS + 50 μ g Matrix-M.

Note: No maximum doses; mNEXSPIKE for ≥65 and 12–64 with risk. 6-month dosing can be with Moderna Spikevax, Pfizer-BioNTech, or Nuvaxovid. Source: American Academy of Pediatrics.

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Table 2d: Ages ≥ 19 years [IMMUNOCOMPROMISED]

COVID-19 vaccination history* before 2025–2026 vaccine	Number of 2025–2026 doses indicated	Recommended 2025–2026 vaccine§ and interval between doses
Unvaccinated	4 (Moderna Spikevax, Pfizer) 3 (Nuvaxovid)	Moderna Spikevax: Dose 1 Day 0; Dose 2 at 4 weeks; Dose 3 ≥4 weeks after Dose 2; Dose 4 at 6 months after Dose 3 (minimum interval 2 months). Pfizer: Dose 1 Day 0; Dose 2 at 3 weeks; Dose 3 ≥4 weeks after Dose 2; Dose 4 at 6 months after Dose 3 (minimum interval 2 months) Nuvaxovid: Dose 1 Day 0; Dose 2 at 3 weeks; Dose 3 at 6 months after Dose 2 (minimum interval 2 months). Additional: ≥2 months under shared decision-making
1 dose mRNA (Moderna Spikevax)	3	Spikevax: Dose 1: 4 weeks after last dose; Dose 2: ≥4 weeks after Dose 1, Dose 3: at 6 months after Dose 2 (minimum interval 2 months). Additional: ≥2 months under shared decision-making
2 Doses Moderna Spikevax	2	Moderna Spikevax: Dose 1:≥ 4 weeks after the last dose. Dose 2: at 6 months after Dose 1 (minimum interval 2 months). Additional: ≥2 months under shared decision-making

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1 dose of Pfizer	3	Pfizer Dose 1: 3 weeks after the last dose. Dose 2: ≥4 weeks after Dose 1. Dose 3: at 6 months after Dose 2 (minimum interval 2 months). Additional: ≥2 months under shared decision-making
2 Doses of Pfizer	2	Pfizer Dose 1: ≥4 weeks after the last dose. Dose 2: at 6 months after dose 1 (minimum interval 2 months). Additional: ≥2 months under shared decision-making
1 Dose of Novavax	2	Nuvaxovid Dose 1: 3 weeks after the last dose. Dose 2: at 6 months after Dose 1 (minimum interval 2 months) Additional: ≥2 months under shared decision-making
≥ 3 doses of Moderna Spikevax, or Pfizer. ≥ 2 doses of Novavax	2	Moderna Spikevax or Pfizer or Nuvaxovid: Dose 1: ≥ 8 weeks after the last dose. Dose 2: 6 months after Dose 1 (minimum interval 2 months). Additional: ≥2 months under shared decision-making

Moderna Spikevax: 0.5 mL/50 μg; Pfizer: 0.3 mL/30 μg; mNEXSPIKE: 0.2 mL/10 μg; Nuvaxovid: 0.5 mL/5 μg rS + 50 μg Matrix-M. Note: No maximum doses; may repeat ≥2 months under decision-making. 6-month dosing can be with Moderna Spikevax or Pfizer-BioNTech, or Nuvaxovid. Source: AAFP

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