

IN THIS ISSUE: COVID-19 VACCINE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5

Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 6 months to 4 years & Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 6 months to 5 years

Introduction

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is caused by a virus called severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). From Jan 23, 2020 to June 14, 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a cumulative 85,681,615 cases and 1,007,374 deaths in the United States.² In December 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued the emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 mRNA vaccines. However, these vaccines had not yet been made available for children during the initial EUA, and over the course of the months following, additional EUA expansions increased vaccine use to different age groups of children to expand population protection. COVID-19 is the fifth cause of death among individuals 1 through 4 years of age and has infected more than 2 million children from 6 months through 4 years.^{1,2} In addition, from Jan 2020 through May 2022, the average number of deaths per year due to COVID-19 for those 6 months to 4 years old was 86.² As of June 18th, 2022, new formulas of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines were endorsed by the CDC and FDA to receive emergency use authorization for those 6 months to 4 years old and 6 months to 5 years old, respectively. These new vaccine formulas offer children under 5 years old the opportunity to reduce the impacts of infection and reduce the casualties.

Vaccine Recommendations

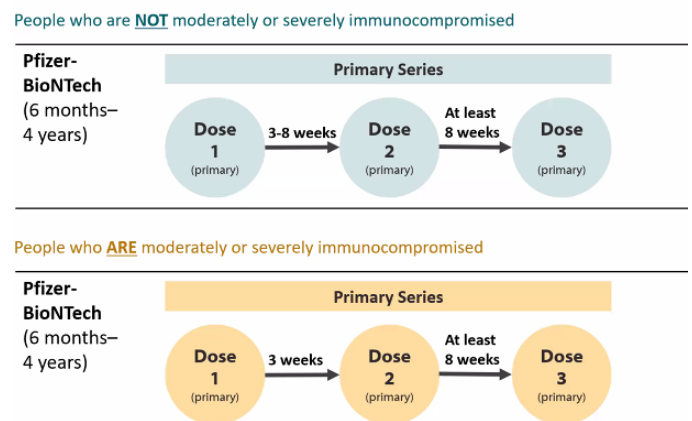
The ACIP and FDA have now approved two coronavirus virus vaccines produced by Pfizer and Moderna for those 6 months to 4 years old and 6 months to 5 years old, respectively, that are safe and effective at protecting this age group coverage against COVID-19.

1. Expanded Pfizer-BioNTech eligibility to those 6 months-4years

Pfizer-BioNTech has been approved for the emergency use authorization of a three-dose 0.2mL primary series for children aged 6 months- 4years.^{1,7} The new Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for this age group

has a maroon vial cap and label border to distinguish the product.^{1,7} The product differs from the previous formulas in its concentration (3mcg/0.2mL) and distinct dilution requirements (2.2mL/vial).^{1,7} The vaccine has a recommended time interval of 3 weeks after the 1st dose and a minimum of an 8-week interval after the 2nd dose, which differs from its previous two formulas, whose intervals are 4 weeks.^{1,7} Upon receiving this product, the vial and carton label may indicate two different descriptions 1) Age 2y to <5 y or 2) Age 6m to <5; note that both vials may be used for individuals 6 months to 4 years old. ^{1,7}After dilution, each vial should be stored at 2° to 25°C (36° to 77°F) and discarded after 12 hours. ^{1,7} Note that the label may indicate disposing of the vial after 6 hours, but the manufacturer allows up to 12 hours. ^{1,7}

Figure 1: Pediatric Schedule - Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine



Source: Recommendations for Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Primary Series in Children 6 Months through 5 Years Old

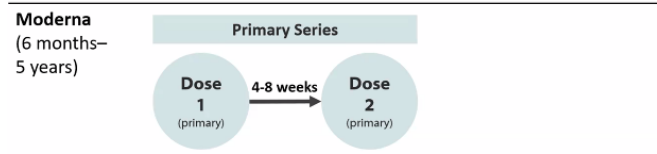
2. Expanded Moderna eligibility to those 6 months-5years

Moderna has been approved for the emergency use authorization of a two-dose (0.25mL each) primary series for children aged 6 months-5years.^{1,7} Immunocompromised children in this age group are eligible for a third dose 1 month after the second dose is received.^{1,7} The new Moderna vaccine for children aged 6 months-5 years has a dark blue vial

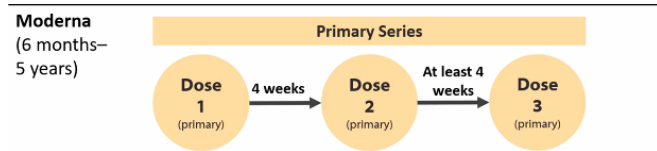
cap with a magenta border.^{1,7} Upon receiving this product, facilities should keep vials stored between -50° to 15°C (-58° to 5°F) and at 2° to 25°C (36° to 77°F) after first use.^{1,7} Once a vial is punctured or used for the first time, the vial is suitable for 12 hours before disposal.^{1,7}

Figure 2: Pediatric Schedule- Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

People who are **NOT** moderately or severely immunocompromised



People who **ARE** moderately or severely immunocompromised



Source: Recommendations for Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Primary Series in Children 6 Months through 5 Years Old

The full COVID-19 vaccine schedule is available here: [At-A-Glance COVID-19 Vaccination Schedules \(cdc.gov\)](#)

3. Clinical Considerations

The two new vaccines produced by Moderna and Pfizer included clinical considerations such as myocarditis, pericarditis, syncope, altered immunocompetence, limitations of vaccine effectiveness, and adverse reactions that may be reviewed in more detail on [Clinical Care Considerations for COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#).³ The most common side effects found in infants and toddlers 6-23 months were irritability, sleepiness, and drowsiness, while children 2-4 years old commonly experienced fatigue and headaches.^{1,3,7} Additionally, both age groups commonly experienced pain and tenderness at the injection site.^{1,3,7} Individuals who will age out from 4 years old to 5 years old during the projected vaccination series may receive a mixed series of age-appropriate COVID-19 vaccines in exceptional situations.¹ For clinical guidance on errors, please refer to [Clinical Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#). The Nevada State Immunization Program (NSIP) accepts COVID-19 vaccine orders weekly from health providers enrolled in the COVID-19 Vaccine Program. You may submit your order on [COVID 19 Vaccine Orders \(nv.gov\)](#). If you have any general questions regarding the ordering process, you can email DPBH-AVARS@health.nv.gov. For any questions regarding the new COVID-19 vaccines for

children under five, you can email Sahand Dehghani at sdehghani@health.nv.gov. If any provider would like to enroll in the COVID-19 Vaccine Program, you can initiate the process by completing the NSIP application <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9VLNBGB>. For additional questions on the provider enrollment process you may email Carina Suazo at csuazo@washoecounty.gov.

Signs & Symptoms

Individuals with COVID-19 may have an incubation period of 2 to 14 days with symptoms such as a cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle or body aches, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, and new loss of taste or smell.^{5,8} The symptoms listed do not include all possibilities, can range from mild to severe.^{6,8}

Diagnosis & Testing

Testing guidelines depend on whether an individual has COVID-19 symptoms or was exposed to someone with COVID-19. If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, you should test immediately. If you believe you were exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should test on or after day 5 or at the onset of symptoms.⁶ You can schedule an appointment with your local pharmacy, Washoe County Health District or use this tool [Find COVID-19 Testing in Nevada - Nevada Health Response \(nv.gov\)](#).⁹ You may also use an at-home test which can be ordered for free at [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) or picked up in person at local organizations listed here [Find COVID-19 Testing in Nevada - Nevada Health Response \(nv.gov\)](#).^{6,9}

Treatment

Antiviral treatments such as Nirmatrelvir with Ritonavi, Remdesivir, Bebtelovimab, and Molnupiravir are available based on age eligibility and medical requirements.⁴ You should consult your provider before treatment. To find a location in your area that is administering the appropriate COVID-19 vaccines for your age group can be found here [Vaccines.gov - Find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you](#).

Reporting

The list of reportable communicable diseases and reporting forms can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/WashoeDiseaseReporting>

Report communicable diseases to the Washoe County Health District. To report a communicable disease, please call 775-328-

2447 or fax your report to the WCHD at 775-328-3764.

Acknowledgement

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References

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- 7 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Vaccines & Immunizations. Updated CDC Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination Operational Planning Guide — Information for the COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 6 Months through 4 Years Old and/or COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 6 Months through 5 Years Old. Accessed June 2022 [Updated CDC Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination Operational Planning Guide Information for the COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 6 Months through 4 Years](#)
- 8 Mayo Clinic. Diseases & Conditions. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Accessed June 2022 [Coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) - Symptoms and causes - Mayo Clinic](#)
- 9 Nevada Health Response. COVID-19 Testing. Find COVID-19 Testing in Nevada. Accessed June 2022 [Find COVID-19 Testing in Nevada - Nevada Health Response \(nv.gov\)](#)