# 2025-26 Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine for Age 6 Months through 4 Years

vaccine protocol for children Age 6 months through 4 years

**Document reviewed and updated:** **September 23, 2025**

## Condition for protocol

To reduce incidence of morbidity and mortality of COVID-19 disease.

## Policy of protocol

The nurse will implement this protocol for COVID-19 vaccination using the 2025-26 Moderna Spikevax vaccine product for people 6 months through 4 years old.

The indications for vaccination are based on recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) [AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf (https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf)](https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf), the American College of Obstetricians and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) [Immunization Schedules (www.aafp.org/family-physician/patient-care/prevention-wellness/immunizations-vaccines/immunization-schedules.html?)](https://www.aafp.org/family-physician/patient-care/prevention-wellness/immunizations-vaccines/immunization-schedules.html?)

## Condition-specific criteria and prescribed actions

**Delete this entire paragraph before printing/signing protocol.**

[Instructions for persons adopting these protocols: The table below lists indication, contraindication, and precaution criteria and suggested prescribed actions that are necessary to implement the vaccine protocol. The prescribed actions include examples shown in brackets but may not suit your institution’s clinical situation and may not include all possible actions. A licensed prescriber must review the criteria and actions and determine the appropriate prescribing action.]

Indications

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria | Prescribed action |
| Child is over 4 years old. | Do not vaccinate using this protocol.  Refer to COVID-19 vaccine protocol for the *2025-26 COVID-19 Vaccine for Age 5 to 11Yyears and Older* or *the 2025-26 COVID-19 Vaccine for Age 12 Years and Older protocol* depending on child’s age. |
| Child is under 6 months of age. | Do not vaccinate. |
| Child is age 6 through 23 months old. | Proceed to vaccinate. |
| Child is currently healthy and age 2 through 4 years. | Proceed to vaccinate if meets remaining criteria. |
| Child has not received a primary series of COVID-19 vaccine. | Proceed to vaccinate. |
| Child has a chronic medical condition\*. | Proceed to vaccinate. |
| Child is in one of the following risk groups:   * At high risk of severe COVID-19. * A resident of a long-term care facility or congregate setting. * Has a household contact at high risk for severe COVID-19. * Has never been vaccinated against COVID-19. | Proceed to vaccinate. |
| Child with HIV infection, other immunocompromising conditions, or who takes immunosuppressive medications or therapies. | Proceed to vaccinate. Counsel the individual about: 1) The potential for reduced immune responses.  2) The need to continue to follow [current guidance](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) to protect themselves. |
| Child who falls into one of the following categories of moderate to severe immunocompromise:   * Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies. * Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy. * Receipt of CAR-T-cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy). * Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome). * Advanced or untreated HIV infection. * Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., ≥20mg prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, tumor-necrosis (TNF) blockers, and other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory. | Proceed to vaccinate using schedule for children with immunocompromising conditions.  [Refer to primary care provider if additional doses may be indicated.] |
| Person whose parent or guardian requests protection from COVID-19 for their child. | Proceed to vaccinate. |

Contraindications

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria | Prescribed action |
| Child had a severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to a previous dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine or any of its components. | Do not vaccinate. |

Precautions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria | Prescribed action |
| Child has a moderate to severe illness defined as temperature \_\_\_\_°F/°C or higher with symptoms such as: {to be determined by medical prescriber} | Defer vaccination and {to be determined by medical prescriber} |
| Child was diagnosed with a non-severe allergy (e.g., urticaria beyond the injection site) to a component of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine; or non-severe, immediate (onset less than 4 hours) allergic reaction after administration of a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. | Refer to primary care provider. |
| History of severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to any other vaccine or injectable therapy (e.g., intramuscular, intravenous, or subcutaneous).  *This precaution does not include allergies not related to vaccines or injectable therapies e.g., food, pet, environmental, or latex allergies; oral medications (including the oral equivalents of injectable medications).* | Refer to primary care provider. |
| Child has a history of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C). | Refer to their primary care provider to receive an assessment of their current health condition and assessment of individual benefits and risks. |
| Child has a history of myocarditis or pericarditis within 3 weeks after a previous dose of any COVID-19 vaccine. | Refer to their primary care provider to receive an assessment of their current health condition and assessment of individual benefits and risks. |
| Child had a delayed local allergic reaction (e.g., erythema, induration, pruritis at the injection site). | Proceed to vaccinate. Give vaccine in the opposite arm from where the first dose was given. |

## Prescription

Give 2025-2026 Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine: 25 mcg, **0.25 mL**, intramuscular (IM).

### Unvaccinated (i.e., never received any COVID-19 vaccine doses)

* Ages 6-23 months:
  + Give two doses of 2025-2026 Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine at 0 and 4-8 weeks.
* Ages 2 years through 4 years old:
  + Give one dose of 2025-2026 Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine.

### Incomplete initial vaccination series

* Ages 6-23 months:
  + Previous vaccination with Moderna: One dose of Moderna: complete initial series with one dose 4-8 weeks after most recent dose.
  + Previous vaccination with Pfizer-BioNTech:
    - One dose Pfizer-BioNTech: complete initial series with two doses Moderna Spikevax at least 4-8 weeks apart (administer dose one 4-8 weeks after most recent dose).
    - Two doses Pfizer-BioNTech: complete initial series with one dose Moderna Spikevax at least 8 weeks after most recent dose.
* Ages 2 years through 4 years old
  + Give one dose of Moderna Spikevax regardless of previous vaccination status at least 8 weeks after the most recent dose.

### For those who have previously completed an initial series

Give one dose of 2025-26 Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine at least 8 weeks after the most recent dose.

## For persons age 6 months-4 years old with immunocompromising conditions

### Unvaccinated

* Give four doses: A three-dose initial series at 0, 4 weeks, and at least 4 weeks after dose two, followed by a fourth dose 6 months later (minimum interval 2 months).\*

### Incomplete initial 3-dose vaccination series

**Previous vaccination with Moderna**:

* One dose of Moderna: complete initial series with two doses at least 4 weeks apart (administer dose one 4 weeks after most recent dose), followed by one dose 6 months later (minimum interval 2 months).\*
* Two doses of Moderna: Complete initial series with one dose of Moderna at least 4 weeks after most recent dose, followed by one dose 6 months later (minimum interval 2 months).\*

**Previous vaccination with Pfizer-BioNTech**:

* One dose Pfizer-BioNTech: complete initial series with two doses Moderna at least 8 weeks apart (administer dose one Moderna 4 weeks after most recent dose), followed by one dose Moderna 6 months later (minimum interval 2 months).\*
* Two doses Pfizer-BioNTech: complete initial series with one dose Moderna at least 8 weeks after most recent dose, followed by one dose Moderna 6 months later (minimum interval 2 months).

### Previously completed initial 3-dose vaccination series

* Three or more doses Moderna: Give two doses Moderna 6 months apart (minimum interval 2 months). Administer dose one at least 8 weeks after the most recent dose.\*
* Three or more doses Pfizer-BioNTech: Give two doses Moderna 6 months apart (minimum interval 2 months). Administer dose one at least 8 weeks after the most recent dose.\*

\*Use vaccine from the same manufacturer for all doses in the initial vaccination series.

\*Additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine for moderately or severely immunocompromised may be given based on shared clinical decision making and administered at least 2 months after the most recent dose. Refer patient to health care provider.

## Medical emergency or anaphylaxis

Follow pre-established agency protocol for anaphylaxis.

## Question or concerns

**Insert overseeing medical consultant’s information below and delete this sentence before printing/signing.**

In the event of questions or concerns call (insert name) at (insert phone number).

**This protocol shall remain in effect until rescinded.**

Name of prescriber (please print):

Prescriber signature:

Date:

## Ingredient list

2025-2026 Moderna COVID-19 vaccine: [Package Insert - SPIKEVAX (www.fda.gov/media/155675/download?attachment)](https://www.fda.gov/media/155675/download?attachment)