

Special Bulletin

COVID Vaccine 2nd Dose

The Medical Society of Delaware received the following information from DPH regarding COVID Vaccine 2nd dose. MSD will continue to advocate for our physicians and be a conduit to connect practices with vaccinators as they become available.

Based on federal guidance from the Trump Administration, Delaware decided to no longer hold back on reserving second doses for Delawareans. The federal guidance pushed that getting more people their first dose was more important than completing the entire series, with the understanding that there would be adequate supply available for second doses when the time came.

As we start second dose administration for Phase 1A personnel who first received the vaccine, this has not proven to be the case. All states are facing the same supply issue. Currently, we are unable to guarantee the availability of second doses as we had hoped, and are unable to schedule specific sites for Delawareans to receive them at this time. Plans are subject to changed based on federal vaccine allocations.

For Phase 1A personnel vaccinated at a DPH clinic, we are reviewing allocations and will provide additional information as it becomes available. Delawareans 65+ in Phase 1B should be able access their second dose in the coming weeks. As it gets closer to the time for Delawareans 65+ to receive a second dose, they can schedule an appointment with pharmacies serving the public, or can request to schedule with a vaccination event at de.gov/covidvaccine.

They do not have to get the second dose at the same place as the first dose...it only has to be the same type of vaccine (either Pfizer or Moderna – that information is contained on the Immunization Record Card (little card) they received at the vaccination site). Additionally, the second dose does not have to be received exactly 21 or 28 days after the first. The second dose may be received at a convenient time for the patient without having to re-start the 2-dose series. Additional questions can be directed to DPH at VaccinePlanning@delaware.gov.

CDC - Updated recommendations on intervals between the first and second dose:
The mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series consist of two doses administered intramuscularly:

- Pfizer-BioNTech (30 µg, 0.3 ml each): 3 weeks (21 days) apart
- Moderna (100 µg, 0.5 ml): 1 month (28 days) apart

Persons should not be scheduled to receive the second dose earlier than recommended (i.e., 3 weeks [Pfizer-BioNTech] or 1 month [Moderna]). However, second doses administered within a grace period of 4 days earlier than the recommended date for the second dose are still considered valid. Doses inadvertently administered earlier than the grace period should not be repeated.

The second dose should be administered as close to the recommended interval as possible. However, if it is not feasible to adhere to the recommended interval, the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines may be scheduled for administration up to 6 weeks (42 days) after the first dose. There are currently limited data on efficacy of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines administered beyond this window. If the second dose is administered beyond these intervals, there is no need to restart the series. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/cdcvaccineintervals>.

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