



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc
Commissioner

January 10, 2022

Dear Colleague,

On January 7, 2022, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) approved **shortening the eligibility interval for a COVID-19 booster dose to 5 months after completion of the Moderna primary series**. This is aligned with the 5-month booster interval for people who completed the Pfizer primary series, also announced last week. Many people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and received an additional (third) mRNA dose in August may now be eligible for a booster dose under these new recommendations. The 2-month booster interval for people who completed the Johnson & Johnson primary series remains unchanged. Any of the three authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines may be used for a booster dose, but mRNA vaccines are preferred in most situations.

The CDC's update follows revisions to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s Emergency Use Authorization for the Moderna vaccine and is reflected in the revised FDA Moderna fact sheets for [recipients](#) and [health care providers](#).

We also wanted to take this opportunity to remind providers that people with known SARS-CoV-2 infection can be vaccinated, including receiving a booster, as soon as they have recovered from acute illness and [criteria](#) to discontinue isolation have been met. There is no reason to wait. Please refer to the [CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) for the most current vaccine guidance.

Thank you for your commitment to promoting and protecting the health of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane R. Zucker'.

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization