



## Memorandum

Date: April 21, 2012

To: Wake County Healthcare Providers

From: Nicole Mushonga, MD, MS, Assistant Physician Director/Epidemiology Program Director  
Public Health and Clinics Divisions

Re: COVID-19 Vaccine Dose Intervals and Completion of Vaccine Series

Wake County Public Health would like to remind vaccine providers of current CDC recommendations on the importance of completing vaccine series and the time interval between first and second mRNA vaccine doses.

- **Data from clinical trials indicate that currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines can be given safely to people with evidence of a prior SARS-CoV-2 infection.**
  - People should be offered vaccination regardless of history of prior symptomatic or asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection.
  - Viral testing to assess for acute SARS-CoV-2 infection or serologic testing to assess for prior infection is not recommended for the purposes of vaccine decision-making.
- **Full efficacy of approved mRNA vaccine requires completion of a 2-dose series, even when the individual has a history of COVID diagnosis.**
  - Persons with a recent history of COVID-19, may choose to defer first dose vaccine for 90 days.
  - **Second dose Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines should be administered as close to the recommended interval as possible, but not earlier than recommended (i.e., 3 weeks for Pfizer-BioNTech or 1 month for Moderna).** Second doses administered within a grace period of 4 days earlier than the recommended date for the second dose are still considered valid.
  - If it is not feasible to adhere to the recommended interval and a delay in vaccination is unavoidable, the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines may be administered up to 6 weeks (42 days) after the first dose.
  - Patients should be counseled on the importance of completing the two-dose series with the same vaccine product to optimize protection.
  - Unless people have a [contraindication to vaccination](#), they should be encouraged to complete the series to optimize protection against COVID-19 even if they experience local or systemic symptoms following the first dose.

For more information please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html#CoV-19-vaccination>