

2025 – 2026 COVID-19 Vaccine Memo

Dear Colleagues,

This memo summarizes the updated 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine recommendations for patients of Lucile Packard Children's Hospital (LPCH) Stanford and Clinics for the 2025-2026 season. These are based on the [most recent recommendations](#) from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM).

The inpatient and outpatient EMR-based processes for COVID-19 vaccination at LPCH Stanford and Clinics will "Go Live" on **September 15, 2025**. Receiving an updated COVID-19 vaccination is important to protect our patients and their families.

An updated COVID-19 vaccine has been approved by the FDA to protect against the currently circulating SARS-CoV-2 variants. Only the Moderna 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine (Spikevax®) will be offered at LPCH Stanford Hospital and select specialty clinics. Both vaccine formulations, for 6 months – 11 years and 12+ years, are now available in pre-filled syringes.

Other important reminders:

1. **COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all patients 6 – 23 months of age, all pregnant patients, and select patients 2 years and older**, unless contraindicated (see #5 below). Updated COVID-19 vaccine should be given at least 8 weeks after the last dose received for those with completed initial vaccine series. Those with previous asymptomatic infection or symptomatic disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 should also receive COVID-19 vaccination.
2. **Immunocompetent patients:**
 - a. **Children 6 months through 23 months:**
 - i. **Unvaccinated:** require 2 doses of Moderna administered at least 4 weeks apart for initial vaccination series.
 - ii. **Incomplete initial vaccine series with 1 prior dose of Moderna:** should receive 1 dose of the updated Moderna COVID-19 vaccine 4-8 weeks after the most recent dose.
 - iii. **Completed initial vaccine series:** should receive 1 dose of the updated Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at least 8 weeks after the most recent dose.
 - b. **Patients age 2 years and older** in the following risk groups should also receive a single dose of updated Moderna COVID-19 vaccine: persons at high risk of severe COVID-19 (including pregnancy), residents of long-term care facilities or other congregate settings, persons who have never been vaccinated against COVID-19, and persons whose household contacts are at high risk of severe COVID-19. A single dose may also be administered to children 2 years and older without risk factors if the parent/guardian desires vaccine protection for their child.
3. **Moderately to severely immunocompromised patients 6 months and older** should receive at least two doses of updated COVID-19 vaccine. Patients will have a different number of recommended doses based on age and number of previously received COVID-19 vaccine doses. Refer to [AAP immunization schedule for more details](#).
4. As of August 2025, the only available vaccine manufacturer for the 6 month to 4 year age range is Moderna. [Pfizer-BioNTech is now only approved for 5 years of age and older](#).
5. COVID-19 vaccine may be administered on the same day as other immunizations, including the influenza vaccine or other routine childhood vaccine. Administer at different injection sites.
6. Before ordering COVID-19 vaccine, confirm that the patient meets criteria and evaluate for any of the following precautions/contraindications:
 - Severe allergic reaction after a previous dose or to a component of a COVID-19 vaccine (**contraindication**)
 - History of diagnosed non-severe allergy to a component or previous dose of the COVID-19 vaccine
 - History of myocarditis/pericarditis within 3 weeks after a dose of any COVID-19 vaccine
 - History of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in children or adults (MIS-C or MIS-A)
7. COVID-19 vaccine doses from the same manufacturer should be administered whenever recommended (for all doses in patients 6-23 months and for initial vaccination series in immunocompromised patients). However, if the same vaccine manufacturer is not available at the time of vaccination OR if the person would otherwise not receive a recommended vaccine, an alternative vaccine manufacturer may be used. See [CDC Interchangeability of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) for more information.

Additional information regarding COVID-19 vaccination is available at the links below:

- [Package Insert \(Spikevax®\)](#)
- [Patient Package Insert](#) (formerly the Fact Sheet for Patient/Caregivers)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet \(VIS\) for patients](#)
- [AAP Immunization Schedule](#)
- [ACOG COVID-19 Vaccination Considerations for Obstetric-Gynecologic Care](#)

Please contact us with any questions or concerns. Thank you for helping to ensure the health and safety of our patients.

Sincerely,

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on behalf of the LPCH Stanford Integrated Infectious Diseases Program