

COVID-19 Vaccination Modules: Understanding Key Terms

This document defines key terms related to COVID-19 vaccination for the purpose of NHSN public health surveillance. Facilities can review these definitions when reporting data through the NHSN COVID-19 Vaccination Modules.

This document will be updated to reflect any changes as COVID-19 vaccination guidance evolves (for example, revisions to CDC’s *up to date* vaccination definition). This document will be updated quarterly. Use the definitions for the reporting period associated with the reporting weeks included in your data submission.

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Reporting Periods Quarter 4 2021 through Quarter 2 2022

The following definitions apply when reporting data through the NHSN COVID-19 Vaccination Modules for the reporting periods of Quarter 4, 2021 through Quarter 2, 2022 (representing vaccination data for October 3, 2021 through June 26, 2022).

Primary vaccine series

Completing a primary vaccine series means receiving:

- A 2-dose series of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna), **OR**
- A single dose of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine

Booster dose

A booster dose is a subsequent dose of vaccine administered to enhance or restore protection which might have waned over time after primary series vaccination.

Additional dose

An additional dose is another dose of vaccine administered to people who were less likely to mount a protective immune response after initial vaccination (i.e., those who are moderately or severely immunocompromised).

*Note: Assume all doses received after primary series are booster doses unless you have specific documentation of an individual receiving an additional dose.

Up to date with vaccination

Individuals are considered up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines during the surveillance period of October 3, 2021 through June 26, 2022 for the purpose of NHSN surveillance if they meet (1) of the following criteria*:

1. An individual received all recommended doses in their **primary vaccine series** and received at least **one booster dose**. An individual does not need to receive a second booster dose to be considered up to date at this time.
2. An individual **recently** received all recommended doses in the **primary vaccine series** and is **not yet eligible for a booster dose**. Individuals who are not yet eligible to receive a booster dose include:
 - a. Those who received their second dose of a 2-dose primary series of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) less than 5 months ago.
 - b. Those who received a single dose of Janssen less than two months ago.

*Individuals with a moderately to severely immunocompromising condition are considered up to date in the following cases:

- 1) An individual received an additional dose less than three months ago, if primary series was the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine; or
- 2) An individual received an additional dose less than two months ago, if primary series was the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine; or
- 3) An individual received at least one booster dose after receiving an additional dose.

Here are some examples for each case:

Examples	Considered up to date?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary received 2 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Mary received one booster dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine 2 months ago. 	<p>Yes, Mary is up to date with COVID-19 vaccines because she received one booster doses</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jackie received 2 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Jackie received two booster doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine; last dose was 7 months ago. 	<p>Yes, Jackie is up to date with COVID-19 vaccines because she received one booster dose. (In this case, she received two booster doses.)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John received 2 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine; last dose was 7 months ago. 	<p>No, John is not up to date with COVID-19 vaccines because he has not received a booster dose even though he is eligible for it. It has been over 5 months since John received his second dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Therefore, John is eligible for a booster dose. He has not yet received a booster dose, so he is not up to date.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tom received 2 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine; last dose was 3 months ago. 	<p>Yes, Tom is up to date with COVID-19 vaccines. It has been three months since Tom received his second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Therefore, Tom is not yet eligible for a booster dose at this time (but will be eligible in two months).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jane only received the first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. 	<p>No, Jane is not up to date with COVID-19 vaccines because she did not receive all recommended doses in the primary vaccine series.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matt received 2 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Matt received an additional dose due to having a severely immunocompromising condition. Matt received one booster dose after the additional dose. 	<p>Yes, Matt is up to date with COVID-19 vaccines because he received a booster dose after the additional dose of his primary series for his immunocompromising condition.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alice received 2 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. 	<p>Yes, Alice is up to date with COVID-19 vaccines because she received an additional dose less than three months ago. Therefore, Alice is not eligible</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alice received an additional dose one month ago due to having a moderately immunocompromising condition.• Alice did not receive any booster doses.	for a booster dose at this time (but will be eligible in two months).
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