

# Clarify Facts About COVID-19 Vaccines for 2025-2026

**Changes with 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccines are causing confusion.**

**Who should be vaccinated?** Continue to discuss COVID-19 vaccination for ages 6 months and up.

Be aware, FDA labels for 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccines limit use to ages 65 and up...and younger patients at high risk.

But now ACIP has voted to recommend shared clinical decision-making for all patients 6 months and older.

It comes on the heels of numerous medical organizations publishing their own scientific recs...and advocating against limiting access.

For instance, Am Academy of Pediatrics recommends COVID-19 vaccines for all kids 6 to 23 months, and those 2 to 18 years at high risk or whose parent chooses vaccination. Am Academy of Family Physicians also recommends this for kids...plus routine vaccination for adults. And Am College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends vaccination in pregnancy.

Explain MANY patients have a risk factor for severe illness from COVID-19 infection...diabetes, heart or lung disease, obesity, depression, smoking, pregnancy, immunocompromise, etc.

But data show COVID-19 vaccination reduces risk of long COVID, hospitalizations, deaths, adverse pregnancy outcomes from COVID-19, etc.

And despite stronger heart warnings for mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, myocarditis is still rare...about 27 cases per million doses in males 12 to 24 years...and less common and severe than with COVID-19 infection.

Follow your protocol if you vaccinate in-house or at discharge.

If your hospital doesn't stock or administer COVID-19 vaccines, recommend an Rx for patients at discharge...in case the pharmacy needs one.

**Which vaccine should be used?** All 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccines will be monovalent. mRNA options (Comirnaty, Spikevax, mNexspike) preferentially target LP.8.1...protein-based Nuvaxovid targets JN.1.

Give any age-appropriate option. For patients 65 years and older, use any product...Comirnaty (Pfizer-BioNTech), Spikevax (Moderna), new mNexspike (Moderna), or Nuvaxovid (Novavax).

But if your hospital treats kids, be aware of nuances. Spikevax can be used starting at 6 months...Comirnaty at 5 years...and mNexspike or Nuvaxovid at age 12.

Keep in mind other differences. For instance, mNexspike targets specific parts of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein...so it's a lower dose (10 mcg/0.2 mL) than Spikevax (50 mcg/0.5 mL).

mNexspike is also being promoted as more effective...especially for ages 65+. But the number needed to vaccinate in this group to prevent one more COVID-19 case is 73 people. And mNexspike costs about \$35 more/dose.

See our *COVID-19 Vaccines 2025-26* resource for doses, storage, etc...plus answers to FAQs about safety and effectiveness.

## Key References:

-American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Practice Advisory. COVID-19 vaccination considerations for obstetric-gynecologic care. December 2020. Updated August 2025. <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/12/covid-19-vaccination-considerations-for-obstetric-gynecologic-care>

Cite this document as follows: Article, Limit Confusion With COVID-19 Vaccines for 2025-2026, Pharmacist's Letter, October 2025

The content of this article is provided for educational and informational purposes only, and is not a substitute for the advice, opinion or diagnosis of a trained medical professional. If your organization is interested in an enterprise subscription, email [sales@trchealthcare.com](mailto:sales@trchealthcare.com).

© 2025 Therapeutic Research Center (TRC). TRC and Pharmacist's Letter and the associated logo(s) are trademarks of Therapeutic Research Center. All Rights Reserved.

(Accessed August 28, 2025).

- American Academy of Pediatrics. AAP, medical societies creating flu, RSV, COVID-19 vaccine guidance for fall. July 25, 2025. <https://publications.aap.org/aapnews/news/32715> (Accessed August 12, 2025).
- CDC. COVID-19. People with Certain Medical Conditions and COVID-19 Risk Factors. June 11, 2025. <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/risk-factors/index.html> (Accessed August 12, 2025).
- FDA. FDA approves required updated warning in labeling of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines regarding myocarditis and pericarditis following vaccination. June 25, 2025. <https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/safety-availability-biologics/fda-approves-required-updated-warning-labeling-mrna-covid-19-vaccines-regarding-myocarditis-and> (Accessed July 24, 2025).
- Medication pricing by Elsevier, accessed September 2025.

Hospital Pharmacist's Letter. October 2025, No. 411028

Cite this document as follows: Article, Limit Confusion With COVID-19 Vaccines for 2025-2026, Pharmacist's Letter, October 2025

The content of this article is provided for educational and informational purposes only, and is not a substitute for the advice, opinion or diagnosis of a trained medical professional. If your organization is interested in an enterprise subscription, email [sales@trchealthcare.com](mailto:sales@trchealthcare.com).

© 2025 Therapeutic Research Center (TRC). TRC and Pharmacist's Letter and the associated logo(s) are trademarks of Therapeutic Research Center. All Rights Reserved.