



December 31, 2020

CDC Releases Updated Clinical Guidance Related to mRNA Vaccines

CDC has released updated clinical guidance related to mRNA vaccines. The updated guidance can be found at [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine | CDC](#).

The updated guidance includes:

- Additional information on antibody therapies and COVID-19 vaccination
- Information on COVID-19 vaccination and outbreak management
- Additional information on vaccination of immunocompromised persons
- Updates to contraindications and precautions to vaccination
- Information on COVID-19 vaccination and tuberculin skin testing

Major updates include:

- Defining an immediate allergic reaction as “any hypersensitivity-related signs or symptoms such as urticaria, angioedema, respiratory distress (e.g., wheezing, stridor), or anaphylaxis that occur within four hours following administration.”
- Identifying contraindications to either of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines as:
 - Severe allergic reaction (e.g, anaphylaxis) after a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine or any of its components
 - Immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine or any of its components (including polyethylene glycol [PEG])
 - Immediate allergic reaction of any severity to polysorbate (due to potential cross-reactive hypersensitivity with the vaccine ingredient PEG)
- Expanding precautions to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines to include not only anaphylaxis but also any previous immediate allergic reaction to any other vaccine or injectable therapy
- Includes observation periods after vaccination as 30 minutes for any persons with a precaution to vaccination or a history of anaphylaxis due to any cause and 15 minutes for all other persons

CDC is working to update its current documents to reflect the new guidance including the screening tool and standing orders.