

## International COVID vaccines - implications for US doses

The World Health Organization has a process for vetting vaccines called Emergency Use Listing: WHO EUL. As of 12/20/21, there are [9 WHO Emergency Use Listed](#) (EUL) vaccines, the top three on the below list are also US FDA emergency use authorized or approved.

- Pfizer BioNTech Tozinameran ([Comirnaty](#))
- Janssen / J&J
- Moderna (Spikevax)
- Astra Zeneca (Vaxzevria; SK Bio, TGA, MHLW and EU approved sites)
- Serum Institute of India (Covidshield)
- Sinopharm (Beijing Bio-Institute)
- Sinovac (CoronaVac)
- [Bharat Biotech International](#) (COVAXIN)
- Novavax (Nuvaxovid & Covovax)

If an individual has **completed** their international vaccine series with one of the above WHO EUL vaccines, they are considered to be completely vaccinated for public health purposes in the US. Note: of the 9 WHO EUL vaccines, only Janssen / J&J is complete after one dose. The other eight require 2 doses for a complete series (though some countries give only 1 dose). Mix and match FDA or WHO authorized / listed vaccine doses are acceptable for considering someone “fully vaccinated” (means they have completed their primary series).

Immunocompromised individuals  $\geq 5$  yrs of age are recommended to receive a “3rd dose” of vaccine to complete their primary series. For those 5-17 yrs of age, the third Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine may be given at least 28 days after a previously complete 2-dose primary series of any of the above WHO listed international vaccines. For those 18 yrs and older, either Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna/Spikevax may be given as a 3rd dose at least 28 days after the second dose of any of the above WHO listed international vaccines.

**Boosters:** individuals who received a full vaccine primary series with a WHO listed vaccine MAY receive **an mRNA booster vaccine (either Pfizer / BioNTech or Moderna/Spikevax for those 18 yrs and older; Pfizer/BioNTech for individuals 12-17 yrs)** 5 months after their last dose of their primary series. Immunocompromised individuals are recommended to shorten the interval between their primary series and a booster dose to *3 months*.

If a person comes to the US with an **incomplete** primary vaccine series having received a WHO EUL vaccine that they can not receive here in the US, they should either receive a single Janssen/J&J (not available at MCHD clinics) or a single dose of an mRNA vaccine dose at least

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4 weeks after their last dose of international vaccine. This will complete their primary series.

Note: The Russian vaccine, Sputnik and some other international vaccines are not yet WHO EUL and therefore an FDA authorized or approved series should be started here in the US.

Here is the [CDC guidance](#) (scroll down to People vaccinated for COVID-19 outside the United States). As of December, 2021 - CDC & OHA are not recommending mix and match combinations for a FDA authorized primary series, but individuals vaccinated with an FDA authorized / approved primary series may receive any brand of FDA authorized vaccine as a booster. Individuals vaccinated with a WHO Listed vaccine as any part of their primary series may receive any age-appropriate mRNA booster (Pfizer/BioNTech for 12-17; Pfizer/BioNTech OR Moderna/Spikevax for 18 yrs and older).