

## ODP and HCQU News Alert – April 15, 2022

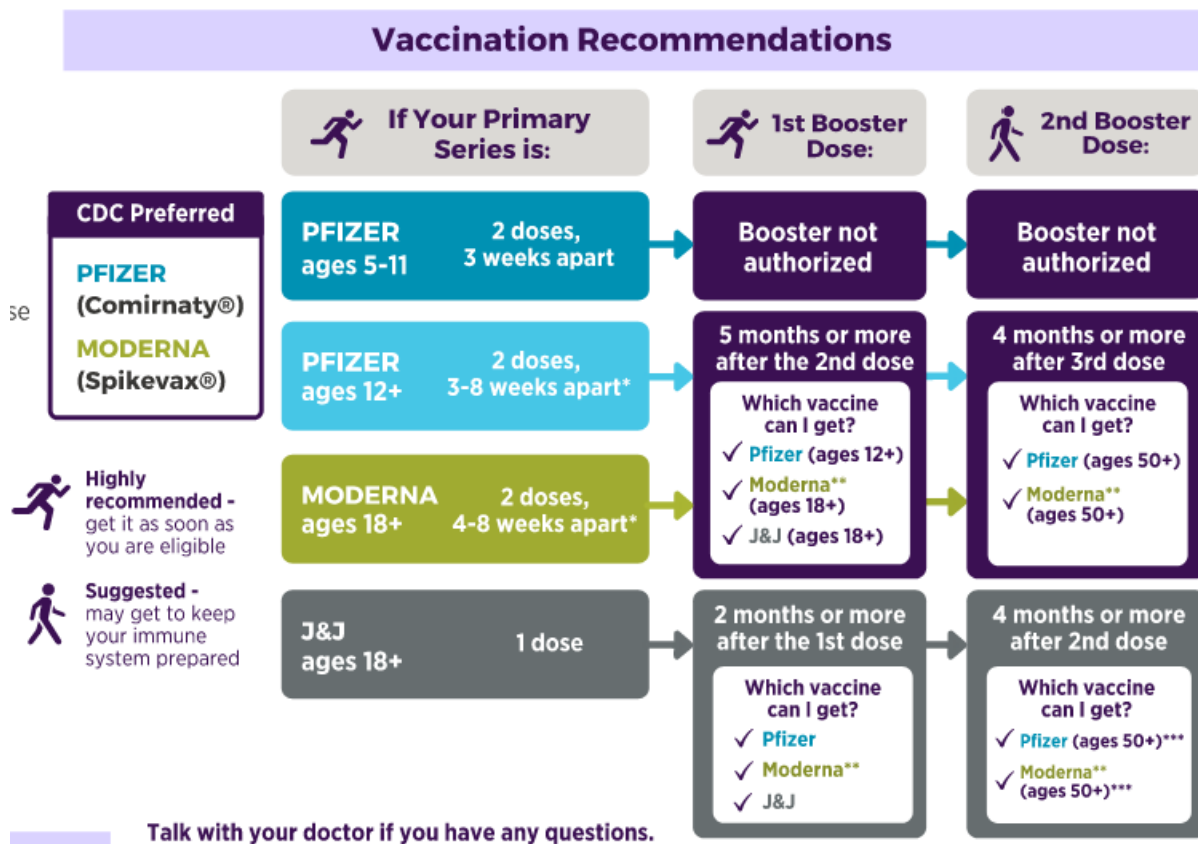
If your site is performing Covid Testing:

PA NEDDS has made the following changes in what COVID-19 Test results must be reported

Type of test	Result Positive	Result Negative	Result Inconclusive
Antibody Test (IgM, IgA, etc)	Do Not Report	Do Not Report	Do Not Report
Antigen test- Rapid test or point of care tests at any CLIA waived facility	Report	Do Not Report	Do Not Report
PCR test, Lab test, send out tests	Report	Report	Report

**\*The Public Health Emergency (PHE) by the Federal Government was set to expire April 16. The renewal extends the PHE's deadline to July 15.**

What is “Up to Date” COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose recommendations:



## The state of PA had identified ticks carrying Powassan Virus (POW)

POW virus disease is a rare, but serious arboviral illness transmitted by infected ticks.

Healthcare providers should be aware of the following:

- POW virus disease is a reportable disease in Pennsylvania and suspected cases should be reported to PA-NEDSS reporting system
- Healthcare providers should consider the diagnosis of POW virus disease in patients with meningitis, encephalitis or other non-specific febrile illness occurring when ticks are active, especially if the patient has a history of tick exposure or bite.
- POW virus disease cannot be clinically distinguished from other tick borne illnesses, specific diagnostic tests are needed.
- Supportive treatment is the only method of treatment, the best defense in this case is a good offense.
  - Avoiding tick prone areas like wooded areas and those with high grass
  - Use insect repellent such as DEET when outdoors
  - Wear well covering clothing outside, long sleeve shirts and pants when in tick prone areas
  - After spending time outdoors make sure to shower and do a full-body tick check. Ticks should be removed immediately. Deer ticks may be very small (the size of a poppy seed)