

LETTER

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Update to “guidelines on COVID-19 vaccination in patients with immune-mediated rheumatic diseases: a Brazilian Society of Rheumatology task force”

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The Committee of Endemic and Infectious Diseases and the Executive Board of the Brazilian Society of Rheumatology (SBR) proposed an update to the “Guidelines on COVID-19 vaccination in patients with immune-mediated rheumatic diseases: a Brazilian Society of Rheumatology task force” [1] based on recently published scientific evidence [2] and on the new recommendations of the Brazilian National Immunization Program (NIP) for vaccination of immunocompromised persons [3, 4]. According to the NIP documents [3, 4], the primary vaccination series is composed of three doses of Coronavac or ChAdOx-1 (AstraZeneca) or mRNA BNT162b2 (Pfizer), or two doses of Ad26.COV2.S (Janssen). A booster is recommended four months after the primary vaccination schedule, preferably with an mRNA vaccine or a non-replicating viral vector. The NIP recommendations for immunocompromised patients, endorsed by the SBR, are summarized below:

1. An 8-week interval between the second and third doses was chosen over a shorter interval of 3 weeks

to potentiate vaccine responses and minimize possible adverse events [3];

2. Persons 18 years and older who received the three-dose primary vaccination series should receive a fourth booster dose four months after the third, preferably with AstraZeneca, Janssen or Pfizer [3];
3. Persons 18 years and older who received one dose Janssen vaccine should complete the primary vaccination series with a second dose of the Janssen vaccine eight weeks after the first dose and receive a third booster dose four months after the second dose, preferably AstraZeneca, Janssen, or Pfizer [3];
4. Pregnant and postpartum women (up to 45 days following end of pregnancy) should receive a booster dose four months after the primary vaccination series of Pfizer vaccine and, if not available, Coronavac vaccine [3];
5. Adolescents from 12 to 17 years old should receive three doses in the primary vaccination series and a fourth booster dose Pfizer four months after the third one [3];
6. Children from 5 to 11 years old should receive the Pfizer two-dose primary vaccination series with an 8-week interval between the first and second doses [4].

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Abbreviations

SBR: Brazilian Society of Rheumatology; NIP: National Immunization Program.

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