

# COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

## PROVIDER NEWSLETTER

8/31/2021

### Highlights

#### Program Updates

- COVID-19 vaccine providers in PA can now provide an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine to moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals. On August 13, CDC's independent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine following their initial two-dose vaccination series. People with moderately to severely compromised immune systems may not build the same level of immunity to a two-dose vaccine series compared to people who are not immunocompromised. CDC has updated its [Interim Clinical Considerations](#) to include these changes.
- U. S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Public Health and Medical Experts on COVID-19 Booster Shots: HHS issued a [statement](#) announcing the Administration's plan for COVID-19 booster shots for the American people in the fall, subject to the FDA conducting an independent evaluation and determination of the safety and effectiveness of a third dose of the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines and CDC's ACIP issuing booster dose recommendations based on a thorough review of the evidence.
- On Monday, August 23, 2021, [FDA approved COMIRNATY \(COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA\) for use as a two-dose series \(provide link\) for individuals 16 years of age and older](#). It can also be used under the EUA to prevent COVID-19 in individuals 12 through 15 years and provide a third dose to individuals 12 years of age and older who have been determined to have certain kinds of immunocompromise.

#### Vaccine Ordering

- All providers enrolled with the PA DOH's COVID-19 vaccine program can place requests for COVID-19 vaccines by logging directly into PA SIIS.
- The process to request 'additional dose' for the immunocompromised population is the same as requesting vaccines for the primary series.
- Currently, the following vaccine configurations are available for ordering through PA SIIS.
  - 1,170 dose tray of Pfizer
  - 14 dose vials of Moderna (minimum order 140 doses)
- Janssen vaccine is only available through redistribution.



- There will be no deliveries of COVID-19 vaccines on Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day.
- All vaccine administrations must be reported in PA SIIS within 24 hours.

## Data

Statewide data representing the 66 counties within the Department of Health’s vaccine jurisdiction:

- Pennsylvania’s vaccine dashboard was updated on Friday, July 9 to more accurately reflect the number of people who are partially and fully vaccinated in each county outside of Philadelphia, along with demographics of those receiving vaccine. For state-to-state comparisons, refer to the [CDC vaccine data tracker](#)
- Vaccine providers have administered 2,178,030 total vaccine doses as of Tuesday, August 31.
- 5,960,402 people are fully vaccinated, with a seven-day moving average of more than 16,405 people per day receiving vaccinations.

## Education

- [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar Series](#)
- [CDC’s COVID Vaccine Provider Education and Training](#)
- [CDC’s COVID Vaccine Inventory Management Best Practices](#)
- [CDC’s COVID Vaccination Toolkit](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine for Children and Teens \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [Communication Resources for COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Resources for Jurisdictions, Clinics, and Organizations](#)

# Best Practice Refresher

## Extension of Shelf Life of Pfizer Vaccine

The FDA has approved an [amendment](#) to the EUA for Pfizer-BioNTech extending the expiration dates of the COVID-19 vaccine from six to nine months. Cartons and vials of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine with an expiry date of August 2021 through February 2022 printed on the label may remain in use for three months beyond the printed date if authorized storage conditions between -90°C to -60°C (-130°F to -76°F) have been maintained. Please note: the ultra-cold temperature range has been broadened to include -90° C (-130°F). Frozen vials stored at -25°C to -15°C (-13°F to 5°F) and refrigerated vials (2°C to 8°C or 36 °F to 46 °F) are **NOT** eligible for extension. Cartons and vials of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine may remain in use for three months beyond the expiry date printed on the label if authorized storage conditions between -90°C to -60°C have been maintained. Updated expiry dates for vaccine maintained in ultra-cold storage are shown below.

| <u>Printed Expiry Date</u> | <u>Updated Expiry Date</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| August 2021                | November 2021              |
| September 2021             | December 2021              |
| October 2021               | January 2022               |
| November 2021              | February 2022              |
| December 2021              | March 2022                 |
| January 2022               | April 2022                 |
| February 2022              | May 2022                   |



## Coadministration of COVID-19 Vaccines (CDC, 2021)

COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines **may now be administered without regard to timing**. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines on the same day, as well as coadministration within 14 days. It is unknown whether reactogenicity of COVID-19 vaccine is increased with coadministration, including with other vaccines known to be more reactogenic, such as adjuvanted vaccines or live vaccines. When deciding whether to co-administer an(other) vaccine(s) with COVID-19 vaccine, vaccination providers should consider whether the patient is behind or at risk of becoming behind on recommended vaccines, their risk of vaccine-preventable disease (e.g., during an outbreak or occupational exposures), and the reactogenicity profile of the vaccines.

**If multiple vaccines are administered at a single visit, administer each injection in a different injection site.** For adolescents and adults, the deltoid muscle can be used for more than one intramuscular injection administered at different sites in the muscle.

[Best practices](#) for multiple injections include:

- Label each syringe with the name and the dosage (amount) of the vaccine, lot number, the initials of the preparer, and the exact beyond-use time, if applicable.
- Separate injection sites by 1 inch or more, if possible.
- **Administer the COVID-19 vaccines and vaccines that may be more likely to cause a local reaction (e.g., tetanus-toxoid-containing and adjuvanted vaccines) in different limbs, if possible.**

## CMS Expands Medicare Payments for At-Home COVID-19 Vaccinations

“The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is expanding opportunities for people to receive COVID-19 vaccinations in their home. To ensure Medicare beneficiaries who have difficulty leaving their homes or are otherwise hard-to-reach can receive the vaccination, healthcare providers can now receive additional payments for administering vaccines to multiple residents in one home setting or communal setting of a home.” Please visit [this link](#) for more details.

## Helpful Resources

- COVID-19 vaccine EUA factsheets are now available in [26 different languages](#).
- MMWR Aug 24, 2021 - [Effectiveness of COVID-19 Vaccines in Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Frontline Workers Before and During B.1.617.2 \(Delta\) Variant Predominance — Eight U.S. Locations, December 2020–August 2021 | MMWR \(cdc.gov\)](#)

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

PA COVID-19 Vaccine Program: All Provider Call, Sep 2, 10:30 am- 11:00 am.

## Contact Us

For PA SIIS related inquiries

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For all other COVID-19 vaccine related inquiries

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