

COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM PROVIDER NEWSLETTER

9/17/2021

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 2-dose vaccination series. People with moderately to severely compromised immune systems may not build the same level of immunity to a 2-dose vaccine series compared to people who are not immunocompromised. CDC has updated its [Interim Clinical Considerations](#) to include these changes.
- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced a meeting of its Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) to discuss the additional doses of COVID-19 vaccines and specifically to discuss the Pfizer-BioNTech supplemental Biologics License Application for administration of a third ("booster") dose of Comirnaty (COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA) in individuals 16 years of age and older. The meeting will be held on September 17, 2021.
- According to the CDC, after FDA's regulatory action on booster doses, ACIP will meet to make recommendations on the use of a booster dose after thoroughly reviewing the evidence.

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" doses for immunocompromised populations is the same as requesting vaccines for the primary series.
- Currently, the following vaccine configurations are available for ordering through PA-SIIS:
 - 1170 dose increments of Pfizer;
 - 14 dose vials of Moderna (minimum order 140 doses, in increments of 140); and
 - 10 dose vials of J&J Janssen (minimum order 100 doses, in increments of 100).
- All vaccine administrations must be reported in PA-SIIS within 24 hours.
- Effective 9/10/2021, Janssen vaccine is available for ordering and direct shipment. Please remember the following before placing your orders:
 - use what you currently have on hand;
 - re-order only what you need based on your current administration data;
 - use what you order; and
 - reorder small quantities when additional doses are needed.

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 12,502,769 total vaccine doses as of Thursday, September 16, 2021 including 60,588 additional doses authorized for people who are immunocompromised.
- 6,094,057 people are fully vaccinated: with a seven-day moving average of more than 14,700 people per day receiving vaccinations.

Education

[Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine](#)

[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](#)

Please visit [PA COVID-19 Vaccine Provider FAQs](#) to find the most recent COVID-19 Vaccine Provider FAQ for Pennsylvania's provider network.

Best Practice Refresher

It's a Great Time to Tidy Up Vaccine Inventory

COVID-19 vaccine inventories have continued to evolve and potentially grow since we began distribution in December 2020. There are currently millions of doses in provider and clinic refrigerators and freezers across the USA. Please take time to organize your inventory, check expiration dates, rotate your stock, and if needed, work with our vaccine program to transfer doses where they can be used right away. Help us get the vaccines where they are needed the most and reduce the chance for wastage!

Monitor Expiration Dates

COVID-19 vaccines that are authorized under an EUA do not have fixed expiration dates, and expiration dates may be extended as more stability data becomes available.

- Always be sure to check the manufacturer's website to obtain the most up-to-date expiration dates for COVID-19 vaccines you have on hand.
- Please follow a first in, first out inventory management practice.
- Remember to dispose of expired vaccine in accordance with state and local regulations and record your waste in VTrckS to help accurately track inventory.

SmartFind COVID-19 Vaccine ChatBot Now Available

To help people more quickly find answers to common COVID-19 vaccination questions, CDC has launched the [SmartFind COVID-19 Vaccine ChatBot](#). This new tool – which is tailored to both healthcare providers and the public – provides an automated ChatBot to quickly connect visitors with credible information and resources about COVID-19 vaccination. This new Chatbot is another resource designed to help people make informed choices about COVID-19 vaccination.

Helpful Resources

- COVID-19 vaccine EUA factsheets are now available in [26 different languages](#).
- [ACIP August 30, 2021 Presentation Slides | Immunization Practices | CDC](#)
- [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 \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [Mandatory PA SIIS training for providers - Course - TRAIN PA - an affiliate of the TRAIN Learning Network powered by the Public Health Foundation](#)
- [PA-SIIS User Account Request](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Resources \(pa.gov\)](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

[Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee September 17, 2021 Meeting | FDA](#)
[ACIP Meeting Agenda-September 22-23, 2021 \(cdc.gov\)](#)

Contact Us

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