



**FAQs for Pennsylvania's Provider Network: COVID-19 Vaccine**  
**From weekly PA COVID-19 All Provider Call (GotoWebinar)**

**Note: Provider calls are not currently being recorded**

**Vaccine Distribution**

**Q: If our hospital has providers within its system, can we share any of our doses with these providers and transfer them?**

A: Yes, you can. Please remember the following:

- First, to receive COVID-19 vaccines, the recipient must be enrolled with us as a COVID-19 vaccine provider.
- Second, every time vaccines are moved from one location to the other, a CDC supplemental COVID vaccine redistribution agreement form should be submitted and approved. The form can be found here: [Redistribution Form](#)

**Q: Does the DOH know if/when single dose vials will become available?**

A: We currently do not have any knowledge or update on that. We will let you know as soon as we receive information on this matter.

**Q: How will vaccinations by pharmacists be handled once the PA Professional Licensing Waivers change? Especially for individuals scheduled to return for second vaccines.**

A: This will be decided by the Department of State and any new plans will then be shared with the provider network.

**Q: Can we partner with a community group without doing the vaccines off-site? We would be happy to schedule them at our facility but have not done off-site clinics yet.**

A: Yes, that would be fine. We strongly encourage partnerships. If you want to host it on-site at your location instead of off-site, that is okay.

**Q: How do we handle individuals asking for replacement vaccine cards if lost?**

A: If an individual received first dose at your location and lost a vaccine card, please confirm the vaccine administration in your EMR and PA SIIS first, then issue a replacement CDC vaccination card to the patient. However, if the person received his/her vaccines at a separate facility like a mass vaccination site or mobile clinic, please ask the person to submit a request to obtain Immunization records from PA SIIS's Immunization registry. Inquiries can be made by contacting PA SIIS through RA-DHPASIS@PA.GOV.

## Vaccine Administration

**Q: We have received several questions from families regarding the COVID vaccine and its effect on fertility. Do you have any FAQs or information we can provide to families to help reduce vaccine hesitancy? We would like to do our part of helping educate families on the importance of vaccinating children 12 years and older.**

A: There is currently no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause female or male fertility problems—problems getting pregnant. CDC does not recommend routine pregnancy testing before COVID-19 vaccination. If you are trying to become pregnant, you do not need to avoid pregnancy after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. Like with all vaccines, scientists are studying COVID-19 vaccines carefully for side effects now and will report findings as they become available. (CDC, 2021)

**Q: Is there still a requirement to space adult vaccines by two weeks from COVID vaccines?**

A: No. You may administer COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines without regard to timing. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines on the same day, as well as co-administration within 14 days. It is unknown whether reactogenicity of COVID-19 vaccine is increased with co-administration, including with other vaccines known to be more reactogenic, such as adjuvanted vaccines or live vaccines.

When deciding whether to co-administer other vaccine(s) with COVID-19 vaccine, consider:

- Whether the patient is behind or at risk of becoming behind on recommended vaccines;
- The patient's risk of vaccine-preventable disease (e.g., during an outbreak or occupational exposures); and
- The reactogenicity profile of the vaccines. (CDC, 2021)

**Q: We have people asking us for second dose so they don't have to travel as far or because they are having a difficult time getting into the clinic that gave first dose. Should we turn them away or give the dose?**

A: If you have the vaccines available, and it is the same brand that was originally received please feel free to administer doses. We would ask that you please ask the patient to notify the original site that they will not need a second dose from them so that they do not order more vaccines than needed.

**Q: Is PA SIIS going to require the Consent or confirmation of it as part of what is submitted for the patient?**

A: No, you don't need to enter consent confirmation into PA SIIS. However, follow your organization's best practice guidance and policy while obtaining and recording minor consent.

**Q: How soon can a pediatric patient receive the vaccine after having a positive case of COVID-19?**

A: People who have had COVID-19 are recommended to get vaccinated with an EUA COVID-19 vaccine. People who are currently symptomatic with COVID should wait until their symptoms are resolved and they are out of the isolation period until they get vaccinated. For most adults with COVID-19, the period of isolation extends for 10 days after symptom onset. For persons with more severe COVID-19 illness, the period of isolation may extend for up to 20 days. The guideline is same for adolescents except for a child who was diagnosed with MIS-C, in which case the recommendation is to wait 90 days. (CDC, 2021)

**Q: What are the guidelines on COVID-19 vaccination for individuals who received their first dose of COVID vaccine outside the US?**

A: People who were vaccinated outside the United States with an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine and have received all the recommended doses do not need any additional doses. People who received the first dose of an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine that requires two doses do not need to restart the vaccine series in the United States, but should receive the second dose as close to the recommended time as possible. For more details on CDC's guidelines, please visit [Interim Clinical Considerations for use of COVID-19 Vaccines currently authorized in the US.](#)

**Vaccine Storage and Handling**

**Q: What is the average expiration date for Pfizer? How long can they be stored in ultra-cold freezer prior to expiration?**

A: Pfizer vaccine typically has an expiration date about six months after the shipment is received. If a provider does not have ultra-cold storage, they can store vaccines in the shipping container, provided they add dry ice every five days for a total of 30 days. Vaccines could also be stored in a standard freezer, and then would be viable for two weeks, or if placed in a refrigerator, they would be viable for a month.

**Q: Where can we obtain the 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection diluent needed for the Pfizer vaccine?**

A: The diluent for Pfizer comes with the ancillary kit. If you need replacement diluent, you can purchase 0.9 % NaCl through any pharmacy.

**Q: Does J&J require a diluent?**

A: No, J&J does not require a diluent.

**Q: We haven't been getting dry ice at day five, only the day after receiving the shipment. Who should we contact about that?**

A: Dry ice will be sent at initial shipment and then at day five for the 1170 Pfizer tray. Refill dry ice is not provided for the 450 doses Pfizer tray. Shippers can be used for up to 30 days, so dry ice after day five would need to be obtained by the practice if needed. Please contact our resource account and we will have a staff member look into it for you. Email - RA-DHCOVIDVAX@pa.gov.

**Q: What are the guidelines for returning a Pfizer Biotech Thermal shipper?**

A: The thermal shipper for the 450-dose tray must be returned within 10 days. For the 1170 dose tray, the thermal shipping boxes can be returned within 30 days.

## **PA SIIS**

### **Q: If we place an order in SIIS, what is the estimated time of delivery?**

A: After your order is entered in SIIS, you will be able to see its status updates by logging into PA SIIS. You can use the tracking number that's provided for every shipment to check the estimated time of delivery.

### **Q: Should we report if we notice if other providers are missing a large amount of administration data in PA SIIS?**

A: Please notify us of this using our resource accounts, PA-SIIS and COVID Vax Program. It would be very helpful to know about those providers so we can reach out to them and work together. As with all providers, their administration data entry is mandatory. Initially it will not be handled in a punitive manner. We will work with them to see what issues might exist and how we can bring them up to speed with having all administered doses recorded, as is required.

### **Q: Is there still a minimum amount that can be ordered for vaccines?**

A: Pfizer comes in two options now; 195 vials (increments of 1,170 doses) or three small trays of 25 vials (increments of 450 doses).

The minimum order for both Moderna and Janssen is 100 doses.

Currently only a 450 Pfizer tray and 100 Moderna tray are available for ordering.

### **Q: Does the 24-hour rule to document vaccines administered still apply?**

A: Yes, that is one of the conditions of the provider agreement set by CDC and we do not foresee that changing.

### **Q: Can we now place more than one order per week if needed?**

A: Yes. We want to maximize efficiency and not have more doses out than needed. If ordering multiple times a week is efficient for you, we will do our best to facilitate that.

### **Q: Do we need to request the ancillary kit if we order vaccines via SIIS, or will they automatically be sent as they are when we order through the survey?**

A: The ancillary kits will still come exactly as they have before. Ancillary kits are attached to orders in VTrckS after they are transmitted there from SIIS. So it doesn't matter if we originate the order in SIIS or you do it yourself, the process for ancillary kits will remain the exact same.

### **Q: How will the providers be notified if an order is approved in PA SIIS?**

A: Providers will have visibility on order status directly in SIIS. SIIS system and VTrckS send an automated email to the contact email on file when the order is ready.

The information in this document is current as of 7/6/2021 and is subject to change.

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