



Date Revised 11/15/2021

Pennsylvania COVID-19 Vaccine Program

Pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout – Frequently asked Questions

1. Is the Pediatric Pfizer vaccine approved by the FDA and the CDC?

- Yes. On October 29, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized emergency use (EUA) of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children 5 through 11 years of age. For this age group, the vaccine is to be administered in a two-dose series of 10 microgram doses given 21 days apart.
- Following the FDA's authorization, CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met on Nov. 2 and recommended the EUA for this pediatric age group. The recommendation was signed off by CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky.

2. What are the steps to becoming a Pediatric COVID-19 vaccine provider?

- The process of becoming a COVID-19 vaccine provider in the Pennsylvania jurisdiction is the same for both adult and pediatric vaccine providers. DOH encourages any provider who is credentialed or licensed in Pennsylvania to vaccinate individuals to enroll as a COVID-19 vaccine provider.
- Please fill and submit DOH's [COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Agreement Form](#) if you want to enroll with our program.

3. What are the instructions for ordering and reporting Pediatric Pfizer vaccines in PA-SIIS?

- **Ordering** - After enrollment into our vaccine program, providers are required to complete a mandatory PA-SIIS ordering and reporting training. After completion of the training, they will be issued a unique PA-SIIS ID and user credentials. By using that information, providers can log into PA-SIIS and directly place orders for vaccines they want for their facility.
Orders must be placed by the number of doses, and not by the number of vials.
The minimum order for Pediatric Pfizer Vaccine is 100 doses.
Standard ordering cycle is expected to start on November 9, 2021. Once the vaccine orders are placed and approved, they will be shipped within three to five business days.
- **Reporting** - Providers are required to report vaccine administration in PA-SIIS within 24 hours. The report should include the following:
 - Date of administration
 - Name
 - Date of birth
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Address
 - Race and ethnicity
 - Vaccine type, dose, and lot number



4. What is the policy on consent for vaccination?

In Pennsylvania, immunization, like other medical procedures, requires consent. Providers must follow their organization’s policies on consent.

5. Where can I find the clinical considerations on Pediatric COVID-19 vaccines?

The interim clinical considerations for Pediatric COVID-19 vaccines can be found here [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#).

6. Can the Pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine be co-administered with other vaccines?

- Yes. COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may be administered without regard to timing.
- COVID-19 vaccines were previously recommended to be administered alone, with a minimum interval of 14 days before or after administration of any other vaccines. This was out of an abundance of caution and not due to any known safety concerns or concerns about interference with effectiveness.
- Although data are not available for COVID-19 vaccines administered simultaneously with other vaccines, extensive experience with non-COVID-19 vaccines has demonstrated that the immune response and side effects following vaccination are generally similar when vaccines are administered simultaneously and when vaccines are administered alone.
- Please understand that the decision on coadministration should be made by the receiving party. Generally, you should consider whether the patient is behind or at risk of becoming behind on recommended vaccines, their risk of vaccine-preventable diseases (during an outbreak) and the reactogenicity profile of the vaccines.
- When multiple vaccines are administered at a single visit, administer each injection in a different injection site. For adolescents and adults, the deltoid muscle may be used for more than one injection, though injection sites should be at least one inch apart.

7. What are the best practices for pediatric vaccination?

Please refer to the following standards of pediatric vaccinations, outlined by the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) ([The Standards for Pediatric Immunization Practice | HHS.gov](#)).

- a. Immunization Services are readily available.
- b. No barriers or unnecessary prerequisites to the receipt of vaccines exists.
- c. Immunization services are available free (COVID-19 vaccines are free).
- d. Providers utilize all clinical encounters to screen and, when indicated, immunize children.
- e. Providers educate parents and guardians about immunization in general terms.
- f. Providers question parents or guardians about contraindications and, before immunizing a child, inform them in specific terms about the risks and benefits to the immunizations their child is to receive.
- g. Providers follow only true contraindications.



- h. Providers administer all vaccine doses for which a child is eligible at the time of each visit.
- i. Providers use accurate and complete recording procedures.
- j. Providers co-schedule immunization appointments in conjunction with appointments for other child health services.
- k. Providers report adverse events following immunization promptly, accurately, and completely.
- l. Providers operate a tracking system.
- m. Providers adhere to appropriate procedures for vaccine management.
- n. Providers maintain up-to-date, easily retrievable medical protocols at all locations where vaccines are administered.
- o. Vaccines are administered by properly trained individuals.

8. What are the best practices for pediatric vaccine administration?

The general best practice guidelines for vaccine administration are outlined below. Please visit [ACIP General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization | CDC](#) for more details.

- a. Providers must be credentialed or licensed in Pennsylvania to vaccinate individuals. A full list of the credentialed and licensed provider types in Pennsylvania authorized to administer vaccination is available on the [Department's website](#). The list includes doctors, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, and others.
- b. Persons administering vaccinations should follow appropriate precautions to minimize risk for disease exposure and spread. Hands should be cleansed with an alcohol-based waterless antiseptic hand rub or washed with soap and water before preparing vaccines for administration and between each patient contact.
- c. Vaccines should be drawn up in a designated clean medication area that is not adjacent to areas where potentially contaminated items are placed. Multi-dose vials to be used for more than one patient should not be kept or accessed in the immediate patient treatment area.
- d. Pre-filling of syringes is not recommended.
- e. A separate needle and syringe should be used for each injection. Changing needles between drawing vaccine from a vial and injecting it into a recipient is not necessary unless the needle has been damaged or contaminated.
- f. For all intramuscular injections, the needle should be long enough to reach the muscle mass and prevent vaccine from seeping into subcutaneous tissue, but not so long as to involve underlying nerves, blood vessels, or bone. Vaccinators should be familiar with the anatomy of the area into which they are injecting vaccine. Intramuscular injections are administered at a 90-degree angle to the skin, preferably into the anterolateral aspect of the thigh or the deltoid muscle of the upper arm, depending on the age of the patient. https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/administration.html#6_2



- g. If multiple vaccines are administered at a single visit, administer each preparation at a different anatomic site. The location of all injection sites with the corresponding vaccine injected should be documented in each patient’s medical record.
- h. Comfort measures, such as distraction (e.g., playing music or pretending to blow away the pain), cooling of the injection site(s), topical analgesia, ingestion of sweet liquids, can help children cope with the discomfort associated with vaccination.
- i. Visit this page - [How to Hold Your Child during Vaccinations | CDC](#) for recommended ways that parents can hold their children during immunization.

8. Where to report administration errors, adverse events?

Healthcare providers are **required by law** to report to VAERS:

- Any adverse event listed in the [VAERS Table of Reportable Events Following Vaccination](#) that occurs within the specified time after vaccinations
- An adverse event listed by the vaccine manufacturer as a contraindication to further doses of the vaccine.

Healthcare providers are strongly **encouraged** to report to VAERS:

- Any adverse event that occurs after the administration of a vaccine licensed in the United States, whether it is or is not clear that a vaccine caused the adverse event
- Vaccine administration errors

Link - [VAERS - Report an Adverse Event \(hhs.gov\)](#)

9. What is the best practice for storage and handling of Pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine?

Please refer to the table below:



Description	
Vial	Multiple dose vial with an orange cap and a label with an orange border
Dilution	Must be diluted before use. Dilute with 1.3 ml sterile 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, USP prior to use.
Doses per vial after dilution	10
Dosage volume	0.2 ml
Storage Conditions	
Storage and handling	Minimize exposure to room light and avoid exposure to direct sunlight and UV light. Do not refreeze thawed vials.
Ultracold Freezer (-90°C to -60oC)	Store up to 6 months.
Freezer (-25°C to -15°C)	N/A
Refrigerator (2°C to 8°C)	Store up to 10 weeks.
Transportation	If local redistribution is needed, undiluted vials may be transported at -90°C to -60°C (-130°F to -76°F) or at 2°C to 8°C (35°F to 46°F)
Dose Preparation & Administration	
	Healthcare Providers for 5-11 years of age, orange cap, (must dilute) (fda.gov)

Additional Resources

[COVID-19 Vaccine Providers \(pa.gov\)](#)

[How to administer intramuscular and subcutaneous vaccine injections \(immunize.org\)](#)

[Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Children and Teens in a Community Setting \(immunize.org\)](#)

[Supplies You May Need at an Immunization Clinic \(immunize.org\)](#)

[Talking About Vaccines \(immunize.org\)](#)

[After the shots... what to do if your child has discomfort](#) (Available in multiple languages).

Note – Please email us at RA-DHCOVIDVAX@PA.GOV for any COVID-19 Vaccine related questions.