



Technical Bulletin



Date: May 18, 2021
Topic: Clinical considerations for administering Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to adolescents ages 12-15 years
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To: All Health Care Providers and Facilities, Local Health Districts, and Pharmacists

On May 12, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) [recommended](#) use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents ages 12-15 years in the United States. This comes after the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) expanded its Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to include this age group on Monday, May 10, 2021. Previously the Pfizer vaccine was authorized for those ages 16 years and older.

Additionally, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) issued a [policy statement](#) recommending vaccination with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for all children and adolescents 12 years of age and older who do not have contraindications using a COVID-19 vaccine authorized for use for their age following this expanded authorization. The AAP's statement, coupled with new considerations from the ACIP, **support coadministration of COVID-19 vaccine with routine immunizations** to help catch children up on any missed vaccines caused by the pandemic. Nevada adolescents received 39 percent fewer recommended childhood teen vaccine doses in 2020 compared to 2019 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine availability

There is currently enough Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine available to meet demand. To offer COVID-19 vaccines to any Nevadan 12 years and older, providers must be enrolled with the Nevada State Immunization Program (NSIP). All interested providers are encouraged to click [here](#) to begin the enrollment process.

Coadministration of COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents

COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may now be administered at the same time or without regard to timing. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines on the same day, as well as administration of COVID-19 vaccine within 14 days of another vaccine and vice versa. The AAP indicates,

"Given the importance of routine vaccination and the need for rapid uptake of COVID-19 vaccines, the AAP supports co-administration of routine childhood and adolescent immunizations with COVID-19 vaccines (or vaccination in the days before or after) for children and adolescents who are behind on or due for immunizations and/or at increased risk from vaccine-preventable diseases."

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling

Pfizer vaccine is currently shipped in a minimum order size of 1,170 doses. It can be stored in an ultra-cold storage unit until the product's expiration date, in a typical freezer for two weeks, and in a refrigerator for five days. Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine can also be stored in the thermal shipper it is delivered in [temporarily](#) if it is recharged with dry ice following the [manufacturer's instructions](#) (this shipping method must be specifically requested).

Additional Resources:

- Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report covering the ACIP recommendations:
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/pdfs/mm7020e1-H.pdf>

- Pediatric Healthcare Professionals COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkit:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/toolkits/pediatrician.html>
- FAQs for Providers (who are implementing COVID vaccination in-practice):
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/vaccine-providers-faq.html>
- UPDATED Pfizer-BioNTech Fact Sheets for Healthcare Providers Administering the Vaccine:
<https://www.fda.gov/media/144413/download>
- UPDATED Pfizer-BioNTech Fact sheet for Recipients and Caregivers:
<https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download>

Questions: For updated guidance, please review the DPBH Technical Bulletin website and Nevada’s COVID-19 response website regularly. ^{1,2} If you have other questions regarding the COVID-19 Vaccine Response, please email dpbh-covid19vax@health.nv.gov.



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¹ http://dpbh.nv.gov/Resources/Technical_Bulletins-New/

² <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/>