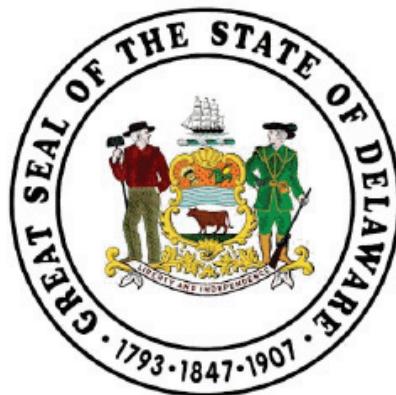




DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health



Standing Order for Administration of COVID-19 vaccine by
Delaware Pharmacists
Effective 9/10/25

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Purpose

The purpose of this document is to ensure ease of access to COVID-19 vaccines for Delawareans seeking to be vaccinated. While routine COVID-19 vaccination is now recommended for adults aged 65 and older, individuals under 65 may still benefit from vaccination based on individual characteristics including underlying health conditions, risk of exposure, risk of developing complications or dying if infected, and personal preference and values.

DPH is committed to helping patients and their health care team make informed choices, protecting public health, and reducing barriers to preventative care within our communities.

Target Audience

All Delaware licensed pharmacists, who are approved by the Delaware Board of Pharmacy to provide immunizations, and interns and certified pharmacy technicians who are appropriately trained to provide immunizations working under the supervision of such pharmacists. (It is the responsibility of each pharmacist who will be providing vaccination services to ensure that they familiarize themselves with and remain in compliance with all Delaware laws and regulations relative to the provision of vaccinations by pharmacists).

Procedure

Pharmacists should follow a shared-decision making approach to all vaccinations including COVID-19 vaccination.

1. Determine Eligibility for COVID19 vaccination

To determine eligibility of patient for COVID-19 vaccination, pharmacists should follow recommendations from relevant professional organizations as detailed below:

- a. [Children below 18 years: Refer to guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#)
- b. [Individuals 18 years and above: Refer to guidance from the American Academy of Family Practice \(AAFP\)](#)
- c. [Pregnant individuals: Refer to guidelines from the College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#)

2. Rule out contraindications and precautions

Before vaccinating, pharmacists must determine if the patient has contraindications or precautions to vaccination

- a. Refer vaccine product insert for full list of contraindications and precautions.
- b. If contraindications exist, do not vaccinate- Advise the patient of the contraindication and consider referring patient to be evaluated by their primary care provider if they remain interested in receiving the vaccine (See referrals below).

- c. If precautions exist, vaccination may or may not be appropriate depending on the specific circumstances. Pharmacist to weigh pros and cons, and engage with patient in a shared decision-making process

3. Consent & Vaccine Information Sheets (VIS)

- Provide all patients (or parent, or legal representative of minors) with a copy of the most current COVID-19 Vaccine Information Statement (VIS). Provide non-English speaking patients with a copy of the VIS in their native language.
- Give the patient an opportunity to ask questions
- VIS fact sheet must be provided and documented before vaccination (including publication date of the VIS and the date it was given to the patient/parent/legal representative).
- Obtain and file signed consent

PHARMACISTS (INTERNS AND CERTIFIED PHARMACY TECHNICIANS WORKING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF PHARMACISTS) MAY VACCINATE ANY INDIVIDUAL WANTING TO BE VACCINATED AND WHO MEETS CRITERIA FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DETAILED IN #1 ABOVE, AND WHO DO NOT HAVE KNOWN CONTRAINDICATIONS TO VACCINATION

4. Vaccine Storage, Preparation Administration

- Prepare and administer per current clinical standards and always review package inserts to follow manufacturer's instructions for administration.
- Pharmacists/Technicians must follow proper injection safety procedures to prevent the spread of blood borne pathogens
- Follow manufacturer recommendations for observation period following vaccination
- Vaccine Storage: Follow manufacturer-specific cold chain (refrigerated or frozen).

5. Document Vaccination

- In the patient record, record the date the vaccine was administered, the manufacturer and lot number, the vaccination site and route, and the name and, if appropriate, the title of the person administering the vaccine.
- Vaccination must also be documented in Delvax, Delaware's immunization information system. It is required that vaccination be documented within 72 hours of administration.

6. Be Prepared to Manage Medical Emergencies

Be prepared for management of a medical emergency related to the administration of vaccine by having a written emergency medical protocol available, as well as response equipment and medications

7. Adverse Events reporting

Report all adverse events following the administration of vaccine to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). To submit a VAERS report online (preferred) or to download a writable PDF form, go to <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>.

8. Referrals

- Patient with contraindications to COVID-19 vaccine (and some patients with precautions) may be referred to their primary care provider as needed to discuss options to protect themselves from COVID-19
- Patients who experience an adverse reaction should also be referred to their primary care provider
- Patients who do not have a primary care provider may be referred to any of the state's [Federally Qualified Health Centers or Community Health Centers](#), or to [Division of Public Health Physical Clinic](#) locations or to DPH's telemedicine clinic (call 302-661-9039 or email Dhss_dph_Accessclinic@delaware.gov for appointment.

SIGNATURE/ APPROVAL

The standing order has been approved for use by the Division of Public Health

Approved by:

Name: Awele Maduka-Ezech MD MPH PhD
Title: State Medical Director, Division of Public Health

Signature:



Date 9/9/25

References

- American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations:
 - [AAP recommends all young and high-risk children get vaccinated against COVID-19, diverging from CDC policy | AAP News | American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
 - [Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccines in Infants, Children, and Adolescents: Policy Statement | Pediatrics | American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- American Academy of Family Physicians recommendations
 - [Influenza, RSV and COVID-19 Vaccines in Primary Care Offices: 2025 Update | AAFP](#).
 - [Adult Immunization Schedule | AAFP](#)
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
 - [COVID-19 Vaccination Considerations for Obstetric–Gynecologic Care | ACOG](#)

TABLE 1: Summary Table for COVID-19 guidelines AAP, ACOG, AAFP

COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Recommendations: AAP vs. AAFP vs. ACOG

Organization	Recommended Eligible Groups	Key Notes
AAP (August 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- All children 6-23 months, regardless of infection or prior vaccination status (initial series or single dose as appropriate).- Children 2-18 years in these risk groups: high-risk conditions, unvaccinated, in congregate settings, or with high-risk household contacts.- Children 2-18 years whose parents want them vaccinated.	Focuses on protecting pediatric populations, especially youngest at highest risk for severe disease. .
AAFP (2024-2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- People 6 months and older.- Individuals 65+ years.- Those at increased risk for severe COVID-19.- The unvaccinated.	Encourages widespread vaccination across ages, with attention to older adults, at-risk individuals, and vaccine-naïve populations.
ACOG (Ongoing: last updated 8/2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Vaccination may occur in any trimester and should be given as soon as possible, coadministration with other vaccines is acceptable.	Emphasizes maternal and fetal health, active recommendation by clinicians and integration into routine obstetric care.