

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):

COVID-19 Vaccine and Boosters

UPDATE: ODP Announcement 22-046

AUDIENCE:

All interested stakeholders

PURPOSE:

To remind the field about a recent update to recommendations from the Pennsylvania Department of Health about details for COVID-19 vaccine and boosters. **Updates are indicated in red.**

DISCUSSION:

On Wednesday, March 30th, 2022, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) issued an update to their COVID-19 vaccine and booster eligibility [guidelines](#). **As of June 18, 2022, the CDC has determined that all Americans ages 6 months and older are now eligible for vaccination.**

Parents and caregivers can now get their children 6 months through 5 years of age vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines to better protect them from COVID-19.

- **The CDC recommends that all children ages 6 months and older, including children who have already had COVID-19, should get vaccinated.**

- COVID-19 vaccines have undergone—and will continue to undergo—the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. Parents and caregivers can play an active role in monitoring the safety of these vaccines by signing their children up for v-safe – personalized and confidential health check-ins via text messages and web surveys where they can easily share with CDC how a child feels after getting a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Distribution of pediatric vaccinations for these younger children has started across the country, and will be available at thousands of pediatric practices, pharmacies, Federally Qualified Health Centers, local health departments, clinics, and other locations this week.
- Children in this younger age group can be vaccinated with whichever vaccine is available (either Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech).
- Parents can reach out to their doctor, nurse, local pharmacy, or health department, or visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to see where vaccines for children are available.

Pennsylvanians age 5 and older are eligible to be vaccinated.

- Children ages 5 through 11 may only receive the Pfizer 5-11-year-old vaccine
- Children ages 12 through 17 may only receive the Pfizer 12+ vaccine
- Adults age 18 and older may receive the Pfizer 12+ vaccine, Moderna vaccine, or Johnson & Johnson vaccine

Pennsylvanians age 5 through 11 are now approved to receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster.

- [CDC now recommends](#) that children ages 5 through 11 years should receive a booster shot 5 months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series.

Pennsylvanians age 12 and older are eligible to schedule a COVID-19 vaccine booster.

- It's recommended that you get boosted five months after your second dose of Pfizer or Moderna.
- It's recommended that you get boosted two months after the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
- The FDA approved a second booster dose for adults 50+ and certain people who are considered to be [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#).
- Any brand of vaccine may be given as a booster dose regardless of the brand of the individual's primary series.
- Pennsylvanians 12 and older who are immunocompromised should received a second booster dose at least four months after their first booster.

Eligible individuals are now able to schedule appointments and receive vaccine or booster doses.

- ODP will not be coordinating clinics for COVID-19 vaccine or booster doses.

Supports Coordination Organizations (SCO) and Supports Coordinators (SC)

- Supports Coordinators (SC) are responsible for ensuring vaccine access for each individual supported by their organization.
- SCs are expected to be aware of vaccine and vaccination process information.
- SCs are responsible to support the vaccination process through coordination of vaccine access and vaccination appointments.

Residential Providers

- Residential service providers are expected to identify a vaccine provider or have a plan for vaccinations of residents.

- Providers encountering difficulty locating vaccine resources can contact: rapwodpemrgncyrspq@pa.gov

Preparedness checklist for long-term care facilities:

- **Evaluate the needs of your population.** Regardless of which vaccine your residents and staff received they can receive any vaccine as their booster.
- **Consider eligible healthcare staff** as potential recipients of booster doses (or a primary series if not yet vaccinated) as well.
- **Work with local pharmacies and providers** to hold booster clinics, administer doses in your facility if possible.

Individuals and Families

- Individuals who need assistance locating a vaccine provider can go to: [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) - [Search for COVID-19 vaccine locations](#)
- Additional assistance is available by calling the PA Health Hotline at 1-877-724-3258

Individuals Requiring Vaccination In-Home

- Individuals who are enrolled in HealthChoices managed care can call their managed care organization (MCO) to request assistance getting their vaccine in their home.
- Individuals who do not have a Medicaid managed care organization and cannot leave their home can contact the COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline at (800) 424-4326. Hours of operation are 0800 – 1630, Monday through Friday (except some holidays).

Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do to protect Pennsylvanians from COVID-19.

Questions about this announcement may be directed to:

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