



## **New Pediatric Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration**

On June 14 and 15, 2022, FDA advisors recommended the agency grant emergency use authorization (EUA) for Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for children as young as six months of age. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to approve the use of the vaccine under the EUA on Saturday, June 18, and the CDC Director concurred with this recommendation the same day, adding children aged 6 months through 4 years old to those eligible to get a Pfizer vaccine, and children aged 6 months through 5 years old to get a Moderna vaccine.

### **Pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Authorization (Revised as of June 18, 2022)**

- Children aged 6 months through 4 years old receive a three-shot series, with two doses spaced three weeks apart and followed by a third at least two months later. The dosage is one-tenth the adult dosage.
- Children aged 5 to 11 receive a two-shot series spaced three weeks apart. The dosage is one-third the adult dosage. This age group should get a booster dose at least five months after their second shot.
- Children aged 12 to 17 receive a two-shot series spaced three weeks apart. The dosage is the same as the adult dosage. This age group should get a booster dose at least five months after their second shot.

### **Pediatric Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Authorization (Revised as of June 18, 2022)**

- Children aged 6 months through 5 years old receive a two-shot series, with two doses spaced four weeks apart. The dosage is one quarter the adult dosage.
- Children aged 6 through 17 years are not yet eligible to receive a Moderna vaccine. ACIP will discuss approval of vaccine for this age group at its upcoming scheduled meeting on Thursday, June 23.

#### **Minimum Order Quantities:**

Pfizer 12y and older: **300 doses**

Pfizer 5y-11y: **100 doses**

Pfizer 6m-4y: **100 doses**

Moderna 18y and older: **100 doses**

Moderna 12y-17y: **TBD**

Moderna 6y-11y: **TBD**

Moderna 6m-5y: **100 doses**

## **Direct Shipment**

- **ALL** COVID-19 vaccine requests placed after 12pm Monday, June 20, for receipt the week of July 4, will be direct shipment orders. This will be the case for all orders going forward. Orders which previously came from DHEC's redistribution center will no longer be available options and providers placing orders must order at least the minimum quantities in VAMS to receive COVID vaccinations. Those providers who initially requested below these thresholds will be rounded to the nearest minimum order increment. DHEC will provide further information as more vaccinations become available or as minimum shipments change

## **Systems**

- Please be sure to make Electronic Health Record (EHR) changes, as needed, to allow for pediatric vaccinations and ensure that these doses are reported to the Statewide Immunization Online Network (SIMON).
- Prepare scheduling systems and bolster capacity for call center and website, as needed, to handle potential increases in volume.

## **Staff**

- Ensure on-location staff are equipped and trained to respond to possible severe allergic reactions, like anaphylaxis, especially in the very young age groups where equipment and medication dosing may be different.
- Ensure that staff are aware that needles which will accompany these vaccines will be 1-inch needles.

## **Vaccine Coadministration**

- Be prepared to recommend and co-administer COVID-19, influenza, and other childhood vaccines to ensure children are up to date on recommended vaccines.
- Consider offering COVID-19, influenza, or other routine vaccines, as feasible, to additional eligible persons (e.g., siblings, family members, community members).
- Consider offering the vaccine for children six months to four years-of -age who are not your patients, and we strongly encourage providers to turn on the public display in Vaccine Finder so that the vaccine location may be displayed on [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov).

## **Reporting**

- Providers are required to report certain adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System ([VAERS](#)) and encourage parents or guardians to enroll their children in [v-safe](#).

Any provider wishing to administer the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine to those 6 months and older who is not currently enrolled as a COVID-19 provider should [enroll](#) now so they can begin requesting vaccine.

Please send questions to [COVIDVaccines@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:COVIDVaccines@dhec.sc.gov).