

Administering COVID-19 Vaccine in the Pediatric Office

October 20, 2021

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I have no conflicts of interest to disclose

I will not be discussing off label use of any product. However, the vaccines I will be discussing have (or will have) received Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA for some of the age groups being discussed

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Background

- Vaccines initially approved December 2020
- Currently three products approved:
 - Pfizer/BioNTech: Full approval for age 16+, Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for ages 12-15. Anticipate EUA approval for ages 5-11 coming soon
 - Moderna: EUA for age 18+
 - Johnson and Johnson: EUA age 18+
- Practical terms: Pfizer/BioNTech is most efficient for pediatric offices

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WHY give the vaccine in your office

- Patients want to be vaccinated
- Parents know and trust their pediatrician
- Pediatricians are the VACCINE EXPERTS
- Pediatricians understand addressing vaccine hesitancy, and are the most impactful source of vaccine information for their families
- The Medical Home
- The vaccine is provided free of charge, and enhanced payments for administration can cover your costs of storage, administration and documentation

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WHERE to administer the vaccine

- Routine office visits (well and sick)
- Special vaccine clinics during office hours
- After-hours clinics
- Other sites: Schools, other sites of assembly
- Even at patients' homes

NEVER WASTE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE ANY NEEDED VACCINES

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HOW to get started

- All COVID-19 vaccines are provided free of charge, and distributed through either NYS or NYC
- You **MUST** be registered with the appropriate entity in order to receive vaccines
- This varies depending on whether you are in NYC or the rest of NYS

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NYS Providers (<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/ProvidersVaccine>)

- Register with NYSIIS and complete training online:
https://health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/information_system/docs/go_live_with_nysiis_checklist.pdf
- Enroll in the COVID-19 Vaccine program through the Health Commerce System (login to HCS: commerce.health.state.ny.us)
- Search for “COVID-19 vaccine Enrollment”
- Complete and submit form, and follow instructions received in return (sign MOU, complete surveys, etc.)
- You will receive instructions for ordering COVID-19 vaccine—done through NYSIIS ordering system (same as VFC vaccines)

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NYS Providers (continued)

- When ordering Pfizer vaccine (recommended), enter the number of doses you want to order. You should receive a confirmation call asking if this is accurate. You may edit that number during the call.
- 12+--minimum order seems to be changing due to pause.
- 5-11—box is 10 vials x 10 doses. Initial order minimum 300 doses; subsequent orders 100 doses. PRE-ORDERING AVAILABLE NOW.
- Vaccine will be shipped frozen overnight.
- NOTE: Shipping of the vaccine for ages 12+ will be paused during the initial shipping period for the 5-11 year old doses, so plan accordingly.

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NYC Providers

- Register with NYC CIR:
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/reporting-and-services/citywide-immunization-registry-cir.page>
- Complete Provide Enrollment Agreement in the CIR
- You will receive ordering instructions following enrollment
- Questions: nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov

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Receiving and storing vaccines

- Enter received vaccines in NYSIIS/CIR inventory
- Pfizer (age 12+): Store in REGULAR VACCINE FREEZER for 14 days, then store in VACCINE REFRIGERATOR for 31 days—total 45 days
- Pfizer (age 5-11): VACCINE REFRIGERATOR for 10 weeks
- Order what you can use in 30 days or less, reorder regularly
- Follow CDC guidance for vaccine storage and handling:
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/index.html>
- Follow NYS/NYC requirements for vaccine reporting (same as NYSIIS/CIR requirements but should be reported DAILY)

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Administering the vaccine

- All vaccine recipients must complete the NYS COVID-19 vaccine form (on smartphone, tablet or paper): vaccineform.health.ny.gov
- Review prep and administration summary: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/prep-and-admin-summary.pdf>
- CDC Guidance Summary: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/diluent-poster.pdf>
- Dosing schedule: Day 0 and day 21 (or later)
- Record vaccine data in EHR and assure transmission to NYSIIS/CIR

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Administering the vaccine (5-11 year olds when authorized)



- Guidance for pediatric implementation:
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/planning/children.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/Pediatric-Planning-Guide.pdf>
- Specific vaccine information: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/Pfizer-Pediatric-Reference-Planning.pdf>

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Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccines

PRELIMINARY – SUBJECT TO CHANGE PENDING REGULATORY GUIDANCE AND AUTHORIZATION/APPROVAL

Description	Current Adult/Adolescent Formulation (1170 and 450 packs)	Future Pediatric Formulation
	<i>Dilute Prior to Use</i>	<i>Dilute Prior to Use</i>
Age Group	12 years and older	5 to <12 years**
Vial Cap Color	PURPLE 	ORANGE 
Dose	30 mcg	10 mcg
Injection Volume	0.3 mL	0.2 mL
Fill Volume (before dilution)	0.45 mL	1.3 mL
Amount of Diluent* Needed per Vial	1.8 mL	1.3 mL
Doses per Vial	6 doses per vial (after dilution)	10 doses per vial (after dilution)
Storage Conditions		
ULT Freezer (-90°C to -60°C)	9 months	6 months
Freezer (-25°C to -15°C)	2 weeks	N/A
Refrigerator (2°C to 8°C)	1 month	10 weeks

Q: Can the current adult/adolescent formulation (purple cap) be used to vaccinate children 5 to <12 years old once the vaccine is authorized for this age group?

A: No. For children under 12 years of age, you cannot use the current formulation and will need to use the future pediatric (orange cap) formulation.

Purple Cap – Adult/Adolescent: Authorized only for ages 12 years and older



Orange Cap – Pediatric: Future authorization for ages 5 to <12 years. A separate vaccine formulation specific for a 10mcg dose will be introduced.



NOTE: Use of the current adult/adolescent formulation (purple cap) to prepare doses for children 5 to <12 years would result in an injection volume for the 10mcg dose of 0.1mL, which is both generally considered too small for typical IM injections and has not been studied.

*Diluent: 0.9% sterile Sodium Chloride Injection, USP (non-bacteriostatic; DO NOT USE OTHER DILUENTS)

**The vaccine is currently under emergency use authorization review by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for children 5 to <12 years old

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Billing for vaccination services

- Pfizer (12+): Vaccine product CPT 91300. Bill either zero dollars or \$0.01 (depending on your EHR) since the vaccine is provided at no cost
- Pfizer (12+): Admin code First dose 0001A, second dose 0002A, third dose 0003A and booster dose 0004A (last two for selected populations)
- Medicaid and most payers are paying \$40 (+) for these admin codes, in recognition of increased work of counseling, obtaining, storing and administering these vaccines. **NO PAYMENT WILL BE RECEIVED ON CPT 91300, AND PATIENTS MAY NOT BE CHARGED FOR THIS CODE**

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Billing for vaccination services

- Pfizer (5-11): Vaccine product CPT 91307. Bill either zero dollars or \$0.01 (depending on your EHR) since the vaccine is provided at no cost
- Pfizer (5-11): Admin code First dose 0071A, second dose 0072A.
- Payment amounts for these administration codes should be the same as for age 12+ product. If this is not the case, please let the Pediatric Council know. **NO PAYMENT WILL BE RECEIVED ON CPT 91307, AND PATIENTS MAY NOT BE CHARGED FOR THIS CODE**

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Billing for vaccination services (cont'd)

- https://health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/covid19/guidance/billing_guidance.htm
- The AAP has additional information on coding and billing for COVID-related services (AAP login required):
<https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/COVID%202020.pdf>

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Special situations

- Immunizing parents and other adults: This may be done if you choose. Follow same guidance as above. You can bill adult's insurance using codes above.
- Immunizing Medicare beneficiaries: Only possible if you are enrolled with Medicare. If enrolled, proceed as above. If not, and you wish to enroll with Medicare specifically for COVID vaccine administration, see: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/covid-19/enrollment-administering-covid-19-vaccines#>

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Special situations (continued)

- Uninsured patients: The Federal government has a program for billing for UNINSURED patients to receive the COVID-19 vaccine: <https://coviduninsuredclaim.linkhealth.com/>
- Underinsured patients: There is a separate program for UNDERINSURED (has insurance which does not fully cover vaccines) patients: <https://www.hrsa.gov/covid19-coverage-assistance>

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Questions?

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