

## Washington State Statewide Standing Order for COVID-19 Vaccine

### FAQs for the Public

- **What is a standing order, and how can it help me access the COVID-19 vaccine?**  
[Standing orders](#) are prescriptions approved by a health care provider. They allow patients to receive tests, vaccines, clinical services, or other health care. They are not directives and do not require anyone to receive care. Under the State Health Officer, this order allows qualified health care professionals such as physicians, pharmacists, nurses, medical assistants, etc. to vaccinate individuals 6 months and older. This includes pregnant people who do not have contraindications to the vaccine.
- **What is the Washington State Department of Health's (DOH) recommendation under this standing order?** DOH recommends that everyone 6 months and older receive the COVID-19 vaccine to protect against severe illness. This standing order is for everyone 6 months and older, including pregnant people. It supports the recommendations from trusted national medical organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the American Academy of Family Physicians.
- **How do I use a standing order? Do I need to bring a copy of the standing order with me to show the pharmacy?** DOH suggests bringing a digital or printed copy of this standing order to your pharmacy or pharmacist.
- **Who can use the standing order to get a COVID-19 vaccine?** All individuals 6 months and older who do not have contraindications to the COVID-19 vaccine. This includes pregnant people.
- **What if I go to a pharmacy and get denied even with this standing order?** If a licensed pharmacy in Washington denies you a vaccine, you can file a complaint with the Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission at [hsqacomplaintintake@doh.wa.gov](mailto:hsqacomplaintintake@doh.wa.gov) or the Health Systems Quality Assurance

[complaint intake form](#). We review complaints on a case-by-case basis. The complaint should include:

- **Where** the denial took place (the name and physical location of the pharmacy)
- **When** the denial took place (the approximate date and time)
- **Why** (if known) the pharmacy personnel refused to provide the vaccine

You can also email the Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission at [WSPQAC@doh.wa.gov](mailto:WSPQAC@doh.wa.gov) if you have additional questions.

- **Do I have to show identification if I use the standing order at a pharmacy?** You should prepare to show identification (i.e. driver's license or school ID) to the pharmacist to receive a vaccine.
- **Is there a cost for the vaccine?** While the standing order gives access to the vaccine, the patient may be responsible for the cost of the vaccine. Some pharmacies can bill insurance companies, but not all. Here is more information on who may pay for your vaccine:
  - Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) continues to cover the COVID-19 vaccine for members, including children and pregnant individuals.
  - To confirm if a vaccine is covered, you should contact your health plan administrator or the [Office of the Insurance Commissioner](#).
  - See [COVID-19 Vaccine Insurance Coverage](#) for more details.
- **Could this standing order change?** DOH continues to watch the science and evidence-based information for COVID-19 vaccine recommendations. We will make updates to the standing order as needed.
- **Who do I contact for additional questions?** If you have more questions, please email the DOH Office of Immunization at [oi@doh.wa.gov](mailto:oi@doh.wa.gov). We prefer questions via email so we can provide links to resources and better track questions.

Apple Health clients can contact their health plan or the Health Care Authority:

**Online:** <https://fortress.wa.gov/hca/p1contactus/>

**Email:** [askmedicaid@hca.wa.gov](mailto:askmedicaid@hca.wa.gov)

**Phone:** 1-800-562-3022

**TRS:** 711 through [Washington Relay](#)

**Client line (business hours):** Monday - Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Pacific, except state holidays)