

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

Standing Orders for Administering Vaccine
to Persons 16 Years of Age and Older



Note: For more information/guidance, please contact the immunization program at your state or local health department or the appropriate state body (e.g., state board of medical/nursing/pharmacy practice).

» Purpose

- To reduce morbidity and mortality from coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) by vaccinating persons who meet the criteria established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

» Policy

- Where authorized under state law, standing orders enable eligible nurses and other healthcare professionals (e.g., pharmacists) to assess and vaccinate persons who meet the criteria in the "Procedure" section below without the need for clinician examination or direct order from the attending provider at the time of the interaction.

» Procedure

- Assess persons 16 years of age and older for vaccination with Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine based on the following criteria: No complete 2-dose COVID-19 vaccination history, regardless of brand. If 2 doses of a same-brand or mixed-brand series have been administered, no additional doses are recommended.
 - If the recipient has received 1 previous dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, the second dose of the same brand should be administered.
 - This vaccine is administered in a **2-dose** series. Separate doses by at least 21 days.*
 - Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine should not be administered at the same time with other vaccines. Separate Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine from other vaccines by 14 days before or after the administration of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine should be deferred for at least 90 days for persons who received passive antibody therapy as part of (monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma) as part of COVID-19 treatment.
- Screen for contraindications and precautions.
 - Contraindications
 - » Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to a previous dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine or to a component of the vaccine.
 - Precautions
 - » Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to a previous dose of any vaccine (not including Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine).
 - » Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to a medication that is injectable
 - » Moderate to severe acute illness
- Provide Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) patient information.
 - Provide all recipients with a copy of the current federal EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers.
- Prepare to administer the vaccine.
 - Choose the correct needle gauge, needle length, and injection site for persons:
 - » 16 through 18 years of age: 1-inch needle is recommended, administered in the deltoid muscle of the arm.**
 - » 19 years of age and older: See table below.

Sex and Weight of Patient	Needle Gauge	Needle Length	Injection Site**
Female or male fewer than 130 lbs	22–25	5/8*** – 1"	Deltoid muscle of arm
Female or male 130–152 lbs	22–25	1"	Deltoid muscle of arm
Female 152–200 lbs	22–25	1-1½"	Deltoid muscle of arm
Male 153–260 lbs	22–25	1-1½"	Deltoid muscle of arm
Female 200+ lbs	22–25	1½"	Deltoid muscle of arm
Male 260+ lbs	22–25	1½"	Deltoid muscle of arm

* If the 2nd dose Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine was given as early as 17 days after the 1st dose, then do not repeat a 2nd dose.

** Alternatively, the anterolateral thigh also can be used.

*** Some experts recommend a 5/8-inch needle for men and women who weigh less than 130 pounds. If used, skin must be stretched tightly (do not bunch subcutaneous tissue).