



Nov. 2, 2021

To All Enrolled COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

COVID-19 vaccinations for children ages 5-11 can begin as quickly as possible now that the federal review and authorization process is complete.

Today, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine pediatric formulation for children ages 5-11 following a thorough review of the vaccine's safety and effectiveness.

On Friday, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration granted an emergency use authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11. The FDA has published emergency use authorization fact sheets for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine pediatric formulation for [healthcare providers](#) and for [vaccine recipients and caregivers](#).

"Today is a day that many children and numerous adults — parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, pediatricians, teachers, and coaches — have long awaited," said Ohio Department of Health Director Bruce Vanderhoff, MD, MBA. "The authorization of this COVID-19 vaccine for younger Ohioans is yet another crucial turning point in this pandemic, allowing us to better protect young children from severe complications from COVID-19. This deadly virus has killed more than 24,000 Ohioans, and has caused nearly 206,000 pediatric infections among those ages 17 and younger."

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11 is administered as a two-dose primary series, three weeks apart, but is a **lower dose (10 micrograms)** than that used for individuals 12 years of age and older (30 micrograms). The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine pediatric formulation is a new product configuration with new packaging, new preparation, and a new national drug code (NDC). **The current Pfizer/Comirnaty product for adults and adolescents should not be used in children younger than 12.**

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is sharing updated [Provider Guidance for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccines for Children Ages 5-11](#).

This guidance document includes preliminary information about:

- Packaging and dosage.
- Storage and Handling.
- Pediatric considerations.
- Ordering.
- Data Reporting.
- Messaging.

The CDC is expected to publish complete clinical guidance in the near future. We will share those resources as soon as they are available.

Providers can now order the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine pediatric formulation. Providers can request vaccine through the Vaccine Ordering Management System (VOMS) in the Impact Statewide Immunization Information System (ImpactSIIS). VOMS is open for providers to place orders 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Details for ordering in the coming days are included below:

- Large quantities of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine formulation shipped directly by the manufacturer:
  - The minimum order is 300 doses, and the maximum order is 600 doses.
  - Ordering is available in the “COVID-19-Pfizer” order set in VOMS.
  - Orders placed the week of Nov. 1 are expected to arrive late the following week, after Nov. 10.
  - In the near future, the direct shipment minimum will be reduced to 100 doses.
- Small quantities of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine formulation will be repackaged and shipped by the RSS warehouse:
  - The order quantity is 50 doses.
  - Ordering is available in the “COVID-19-Pfizer 30” or “COVID-19- Pfizer RSS” order sets in VOMS.
  - Delivery will begin Tuesday, Nov. 9, for orders placed by Thursday, Nov. 4, at 6 p.m. In the future, orders will follow the standard Tuesday/Thursday/Friday RSS delivery cadence.

*The Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Provider website is a hub for a variety of resources for vaccine providers. Vaccine providers with questions may call the ODH Provider Call Center at 1-844-9ODHVAX (1-844-963-4829) between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Mondays through Fridays or email [COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov).*

Sincerely,

COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Relations Team