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.
- 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	⅝*** –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 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 130 pounds. If used, skin must be stretched tightly (**do not bunch subcutaneous tissue**).

- Mix Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine with 0.9% sodium chloride (normal saline, preservative-free) diluent according to the manufacturer's instructions. Follow manufacturer's guidance for storing/handling mixed vaccine.

- Administer 0.3 mL Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine by intramuscular (IM) injection.Document vaccination.
- Document vaccination.
  - COVID-19 vaccination providers must document vaccine administration in their medical record systems within 24 hours of administration and use their best efforts to report administration data to the relevant system (e.g., Immunization Information System) for the jurisdiction as soon as practicable and no later than 72 hours after administration.
  - Document each recipient's vaccine administration information:
    - Medical record: The vaccine and the date it was administered, manufacturer, lot number, vaccination site and route, name and title of the person administering the vaccine
    - Vaccination record card: Date of vaccination, product name/manufacturer, lot number, and name/location of the administering clinic or healthcare professional. Give to the vaccine recipient.
    - Immunization information system: Report the vaccination to the appropriate state/local IIS.
- Additional preparation and administration information is available on the manufacturer's website at www.cvdvaccine.com.
- Be prepared to manage medical emergencies.
  - Vaccination providers should observe patients after vaccination to monitor for the occurrence of immediate adverse reactions:
    - Persons with a history of a any anaphylaxis: 30 min
    - All other persons: 15 minutes
  - Be prepared to manage a medical emergency related to the administration of vaccine by having a written emergency medical protocol available, as well as equipment and medications. For more information, please see:
    - **CDC's *General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization*, "Preventing and Managing Adverse Reactions,"** at https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/adverse-reactions.html.
    - **Immunization Action Coalition's "Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Adults in a Community Setting"** at https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3082.pdf
- Report adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).
  - While this vaccine is under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), healthcare professionals are required to report to VAERS:
    - Vaccine administration errors (whether associated with an adverse event [AE] or not)
    - Serious AEs (irrespective of attribution to vaccination)
    - Multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS) in adults or children
    - Cases of COVID-19 that result in hospitalization or death
    - Any additional AEs and revised safety requirements per the Food and Drug Administration's conditions for use of an authorized vaccine throughout the duration of the EUA
  - Healthcare professionals are encouraged to report to VAERS:
    - Clinically important adverse events that occur after vaccination, even if you are not sure whether the vaccine caused the adverse event

Standing Orders Authorization

This policy and procedure shall remain in effect for all patients of the _____ effective _____ until rescinded or until _____.

Medical director (or other authorized practitioner)
_____/_____/_____.

Adapted from Immunization Action Coalition Standing Orders templates. These templates for routinely recommended vaccines can be found at https://www.immunize.org/standing-orders/. We thank the Immunization Action Coalition for the use of their resources.