

New shipment timing for second doses

The state has modified its strategy for second dose ordering. We will begin shipping second doses on a just-in-time cadence, rather than delivering them a few days in advance of when you can begin administering them.

Moving forward, sites that are due to receive second doses will receive them on Mondays of the week that you can begin administering them (pending inclement weather).

Pfizer vaccine vials are now six-dose vials

Effective Feb. 16, 2021, Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine vials are considered six-dose vials. This means that the minimum order quantity will change from 975 doses per box to 1170 doses per box. Vials ordered for your organization after Feb. 16 should be counted as six-dose vials.

This will affect reporting wastage and redistributed doses. If you cannot get the sixth dose out of a vial, it should be reported as wastage. When filling out redistribution forms, doses should be in increments of six. How this change will be reflected on the COVID-19 vaccine data dashboard is still under discussion.

MIIC menu item for viewing history of COVID-19 vaccine orders

There is a new MIIC menu item that lets providers view a history of their COVID-19 vaccine orders. Click on “manage special vaccine events” under “vaccine management.” Enter your provider pin number to view the history of COVID-19 doses shipped to your site. If you do not have access to this feature in MIIC please reach out to health.mdhvaccine@state.mn.us.

Janssen COVID-19 vaccine training

Janssen was granted an Emergency Use Authorization for their one-dose COVID-19 vaccine from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We will host a training on the new vaccine on Wednesday, March 3 from noon – 1 p.m. Click here to join the Microsoft Teams Live Event (https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZmYzNDVhZjUtZDdjZC00NDxLWE5MjMtN2RmYTc1YTRiNGU3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22eb14b046-24c4-4519-8f26-b89c2159828c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%224dae04cd-4381-443f-ad57-d3d8ae9341a0%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d). Subscribe to our COVID-19 Vaccine Provider bulletin at COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Updates (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/vaxbulletin.html>) for more updates on Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine.

Submitting race and ethnicity data to MIIC

Race and ethnicity data are very important for knowing who we are vaccinating and to uphold health equity in our pandemic response.

To that end, MDH is now requiring providers to submit available race/ethnicity information into MIIC as part of their regular reporting for all patients who are getting vaccinated.

As with all our data, we take data privacy very seriously and will only use this information to help us see who is getting vaccinated in

Minnesota. These data will also help us identify and address health equity-related gaps in our vaccine distribution plans.

To verify if this information is included in your messages to MIIC, you may need to consult with your IT team or EHR vendor. If you are collecting race/ethnicity data but your system is not currently sending it to us, please reach out to the MIIC help desk (health.miichelp@state.mn.us) so that we can help you add this data to your messages without negatively impacting the processing of your messages. If you do not have an electronic interface with MIIC, we are working to update our immunization spreadsheet to include space for race and ethnicity information.

COVID-19 vaccination update for Minnesota

Thursday, Feb. 25, Governor Walz announced a plan for vaccinating all Minnesotans against COVID-19. Find more information at Who's Getting Vaccinated (<https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/whos-getting-vaccinated/index.jsp>).

Back to school vaccination reminders

Now is a good time to get started on back-to-school vaccinations! Providers may have a larger than usual amount of vaccinations to do before sending kids back to school this fall. It's important to keep up with routine vaccinations during the pandemic. School vaccination requirements are still in place to help ensure kids are safe and healthy in school. We encourage you to start sending reminders, or calling families into the clinic, earlier this year to avoid a rush later this summer.

MIIC webinars

The Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) is conducting a four-part webinar series. Organizations have the opportunity to ask questions and see real-time navigation through the MIIC system at each webinar. Find detailed information for the webinars in past bulletins at COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Updates (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/vaxbulletin.html>).

The recording for the first webinar is posted at MIIC User Guidance and Training Resources (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/index.html>).