

Vaccinating adolescents for COVID-19

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is now authorized for everyone 12 years old and older. Make sure all staff who receive, handle, manage, prepare, or administer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine are properly trained. Look for all our training and sign up for provider updates about COVID-19 vaccines at COVID-19 Vaccine Providers (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/provider.html).

Ensuring equity

Please visit our new page, Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/peds.html), to review tips on vaccinating adolescents, key messages, resources, and strategies to reach disadvantaged youth. For more information on equity metrics and strategies in Minnesota, visit COVID-19 Vaccine Equity in Minnesota (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/mnsvi.html).

Enroll as a COVID-19 vaccine provider

If you serve children and adolescents in your clinic, please consider registering to be a COVID-19 vaccine provider if you haven't already. In addition to Pfizer vaccine, age authorization expansion will likely occur for the other COVID-19 vaccine products. Parents often feel the most comfortable getting their children vaccinated at their child's clinic. Learn how to enroll at COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Registration (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/vaxreg.html).

2021-22 MnVFC flu prebook timelines

MnVFC providers will be able to prebook flu vaccine for the 2021-22 flu season starting June 7, 2021. Flu vaccine prebook requests are due Friday, June 18.

MnVFC-enrolled providers will use the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) to prebook flu doses for the 2021-22 flu season! We will send a MnVFC Announcement with instructions on how to submit your prebook request in MIIC on Monday, June 7, 2021. Learn more at MnVFC Announcements (Broadcast Faxes) (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/mnvfc/announcements.html).

Client follow-up now ready in MIIC for COVID-19 vaccine

Providers can now use the client follow-up feature in MIIC to run lists of clients overdue/recommended for COVID-19 vaccine. Providers can do this for specific product type and number of doses received (e.g., to see which patients need a first dose versus a second dose). Please review the client follow-up user guide and video at Client Follow-Up (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/followup.html) for more details and information on how to run client follow-up in MIIC.

New! VAXELIS vaccine

Dosage and administration information

VAXELIS is a new hexavalent pediatric vaccine (Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and Acellular Pertussis, Inactivated Poliovirus, Haemophilus b Conjugate and Hepatitis B Vaccine) that will be available to Minnesota providers starting in June. This vaccine is administered in a three-dose series at 2, 4, and 6 months of age.

Dose: 0.5 mL intramuscular injection (available in single-dose vials and prefilled syringes).

Inventory management

If you are considering a transition to VAXELIS, please make every effort to minimize vax wastage of products you may be discontinuing or eliminating from your inventory.

Storage and handling

- VAXELIS should be stored at 2 to 8 degrees Celsius (36 to 46 degrees Fahrenheit).
- Do not freeze. Product which has been exposed to freezing should not be used.
- Protect from light.
- Do not use after the expiration date shown on the label.
- Discard any unused portion.

Resources

Additional resources can be found at FDA: VAXELIS (www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaxelis), including the package insert and a fact sheet for parents.

International travel in the time of COVID-19

Summer is a common travel time. Providers should be alert to those traveling internationally to make sure they are up-to-date on routine vaccinations and have received recommended vaccines for their destination. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, people, especially children, may be overdue for some of their vaccinations. This is a particular concern for those traveling to measles-endemic areas.

Of special note this summer is the need to provide COVID-19 vaccination. Any of the COVID-19 vaccine products can be given at the same as other recommended vaccines. Provide information about preventing COVID-19 (e.g., masking, etc.), especially among people that are not able to get both doses, or those who will not be fully protected (it will not be 14 days since their final dose), before departure. And for children not eligible to be vaccinated. CDC has more information on travel for unvaccinated people at Domestic Travel During COVID-19 (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html).