

Don't miss an opportunity to protect pregnant Minnesotans from COVID-19

Pregnant people are at high risk for COVID-19-related complications, including hospitalization, death, and adverse pregnancy and neonatal outcomes. Research has shown that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective in pregnant people. But in September, only 34% of newborns in Minnesota were born to fully or partially vaccinated people. We also saw demographic disparities in Minnesota, with lower vaccine coverage among lower-income, younger, rural, African American, American Indian, and East African pregnant people. Prenatal care providers should strongly recommend COVID-19 vaccine to their pregnant patients at every encounter, and after declination should continue to recommend and respond to their patients' questions and concerns at subsequent prenatal care visits.

Learn more about COVID-19 vaccine and pregnancy, and share our fact sheet with patients, at About COVID-19 Vaccine: How to get vaccinated (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/basics.html#1) under "pregnant people." Find details on CDC's clinical recommendations at Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines: Considerations involving pregnancy, lactation, and fertility (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#pregnant).

COVID-19 vaccine booster doses

Last week, FDA issued authorization for booster doses of Moderna and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccines. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) provided recommendations for these booster doses and included that any product may be used for that booster dose. Read more in CDC's media statement: CDC Expands Eligibility for COVID-19 Booster Shot (www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p1021-covid-booster.html). There are now booster recommendations for all three available COVID-19 vaccines in the United States:

- Everyone age 18 and older who received the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, should get a booster dose at least two months after the initial dose.
- The recommendations for Moderna* booster doses are the same as those previously listed for Pfizer; adults 65 years and older and those at high risk should or may consider getting a booster.

*Note: the booster dose for Moderna vaccine is half the original dose, 0.25 mL instead of 0.5 mL. The half dose booster is the same vaccine and can be taken from the vials currently in the field. Maximum punctures for any one vial is 20 times whether drawing up full doses or half doses. Refer to the updated Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers (www.fda.gov/media/144637/download).

Read CDC's specific guidance recommendations about booster doses in the Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines: Considerations for use of a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#considerations-covid19-vax-booster).

COVID-19 vaccine for children 5-11 years

Today, October 29, FDA authorized use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11 years. Read more at FDA Authorizes Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Emergency Use in Children 5 through 11 Years of Age (www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-authorizes-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-emergency-use-children-5-through-11-years-age).

ACIP is scheduled to meet on November 2 to provide clinical recommendations. ACIP recommendations and endorsement from the CDC director must happen before pediatric Pfizer vaccine can be given. Giving COVID-19 vaccination outside of ACIP recommendation is a violation of the CDC provider agreement.

The Pfizer vaccine dose for 5-11-year-olds is different than the current adult/adolescent vaccine (for people 12 years and older). It **will not** be acceptable to make a pediatric dose from the adult vaccine.

Additional information and resources for vaccinating 5-11-year-olds can be found at Preparing to Vaccinate Young Children: COVID-19 (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/pedstips.html). Subscribe to COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Updates (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/vaxbulletin.html) to get more information about updates on Pfizer pediatric COVID-19 vaccine recommendations when it is available.

COVID-19 and flu vaccine co-administration

CDC guidance allows the co-administration of influenza vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine when both vaccines are due. Co-administration allows the opportunity to offer these necessary vaccines and promotes the importance of getting both vaccines.

Both COVID-19 and flu vaccines have been shown to reduce illness, hospitalizations, and deaths. Find more details on co-administration of vaccines and recommendations on additional doses at CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html).

Request MnVFC/UUAV flu anytime

Flu providers can request additional flu vaccine for MnVFC/UUAV at any time in MIIC. Refer to our user guide for step-by-step instructions: Special Event Vaccine Request (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/specrequest.pdf).

MnVFC annual re-enrollment due Nov. 30, 2021

Sites enrolled in the Minnesota Vaccines for Children (MnVFC) program vaccine must renew their enrollment every year by completing required reports and trainings by November 30. Visit MnVFC Required Reports and Trainings (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/mnvfc/required.html) for detailed information.