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School Rule

School Rule (Ch. 261/126)
Rule draft is in process and cannot be discussed during this phase, there will be notice provide in newsprints and directly to those who have subscribed to receive electronic notices for rules related to Infectious Disease.

Interested parties can sign up by going to https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEHHS/subscriber/new?preferences=true

Immunization Rates

How are childhood rates in Maine?
What is the data showing us?
Where should we focus efforts?

Childhood Immunization Rate Comparison, 24-35 Months of Age by Age 24 Months, Statewide, 12/31/2019 to 3/31/2021

Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Department of Health and Human Services

**Immunization Rate Comparison**

- 12/31/2019 to 3/31/2021 (Pre-C19 to present)
- Immpact Data Represents:
  - Approx. 14,000 24-35mo
  - Approx. 20,500 13yrs
- Increase in all Childhood Rates with exception of HepA
- Decrease in Adolescent Rates:
  - 1MCV4, -2.8%
  - 1Tdap, -3.4%
  - UTD HPV, -9.7%

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**CDC's Advisory Committee Recommends Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine for 12-15 Year Olds**

As more adults get vaccinated, children make up a greater proportion of COVID cases in the U.S.

The CDC estimates that nearly 1 in 10 COVID cases reported last month were in adolescents aged 12-17 years old.

Clinical trials for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents showed that the vaccine was **100% effective** at preventing COVID-19, and side effects were similar to what’s been seen in vaccinated older teens and young adults.

The most common reactions were pain at the injection site, fatigue and headache.

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**Co-Administration of Adolescent Vaccine**

The ACIP, CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) supports giving other childhood and adolescent immunizations at the same time as COVID-19 vaccines, particularly for children and teens who are behind on their immunizations.

Between the substantial data collected on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines, and the extensive experience with non-COVID-19 vaccines which shows the immune response and side effects are generally similar when vaccines are given together as when they are administered alone, the benefits of co-administration and timely catch up on vaccinations outweigh any theoretical risk.

AAP recommends that children and adolescents catch up on all vaccinations that may have been delayed during the pandemic.

*Journal: Pediatrics, Article Type: AAP Policy Statement
  Citation: Committee on Infectious Diseases. COVID-19 vaccines in children and adolescents. Pediatrics. 2021; doi: 10.1542/peds.2021-052336*
What is Vaccine Confidence

Vaccine confidence is the trust the patients, their families, and providers have in:

- Recommended vaccines
- Providers who administer vaccines
- Processes and policies that lead to vaccine development, licensure or authorizations, manufacturing, and recommendations for use.

Many factors influence vaccine decision-making, including cultural, social, and political factors; individual and group factors.

How to talk to your patients about COVID-19 vaccination

- Patients seek health information from trusted sources. Healthcare professionals are often vaccine recipients’ most-trusted source of information on vaccines. Your answers to their questions matter and will help them make an informed decision about getting a COVID-19 vaccination.

- Whether you have these discussions with your patients during an in-person office visit, through messages on your patient portal, at a telemedicine appointment, or during consultation in your pharmacy, your strong vaccine recommendation is the most important part of the conversation.

Start from a place of empathy and understanding

- The pandemic has been stressful for many people. The first step is to acknowledge the disruption COVID-19 has caused in all our lives. Remind patients that getting vaccinated is the most important thing they can do to move back toward normal activities.

- Share information on what they can do when they've been fully vaccinated.

Give your strong recommendation

- Let your patients know you recommend COVID-19 vaccination for them. Patients consistently rank healthcare providers as their most trusted source of vaccine information. Your strong recommendation is critical for vaccine acceptance.

- Tell your patients how important COVID-19 vaccines are to protecting their health, as well as the health of those around them.

- Talk about your personal decision to get a COVID-19 vaccine.
**Vaccinate with Confidence**

**Listen and respond to patient questions**

- COVID-19 vaccines are new and it’s understandable that your patients may have questions so they can make an informed decision about getting vaccinated.
- Your willingness to listen to their concerns will play a major role in building trust in you and your recommendation. Make it clear that you understand they have questions, and you want to answer them, so they feel confident in choosing to get vaccinated.
- Empathize with your patients’ concerns and provide information they need in a way they can understand.
- Explore some of the questions patients ask most often about vaccines and use tips for answering their questions: [Answering Patients’ Questions](#).

**Wrap up the conversation**

- Once you’ve answered their questions, let your patients know that you are open to continuing the conversation.
- Encourage your patients to take at least one action, such as:
  - Scheduling a vaccination appointment with your facility, another vaccination provider, or pharmacy,
  - Reading the additional information you provide to them about COVID-19 vaccination, or
  - Learning how they can find a COVID-19 vaccine and what to expect at their vaccination appointment.
- Because these vaccines are new, your patients’ comfort level with when to get vaccinated will vary. Continue to remind them about the importance of getting a COVID-19 vaccine during future routine visits.

**Resources**

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Portal](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Storage & Handling](#)
- [COVID-19 EUA Fact Sheets/VIS Forms/Standing Orders](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Safety](#)
- [COVID-19 Communications](#)
- [U.S. CDC COVID-19 Weekly](#)
- [State of Maine COVID-19 Vaccine Orders](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Info for Clinicians](#)
COVID-19 vaccine is available for ordering at their enrolled locations through ImmPact.

**Jansen:** 100 doses

**Moderna:** 140 doses

**Pfizer:** 450 doses and 1170 doses are available

- If you would like a smaller quantity submit your request to: C19Allocations.MECDC@Maine.gov

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**Jansen COVID-19 Vaccine (Johnson & Johnson)**

- Store vaccine in refrigerators. See guidance notice for further details.
- Each vial contains 10 multidose vials (MDV). A vial must be used within 24 hours.
- A vial is approximately 17.1 x 17.1 x 2.1 cm.
- Each multidose vial contains 10 doses.

**Deliveries**

**Vaccine**
1. The vaccine will arrive in 2°C to 8°C deep and AMP-validated shipping container.
2. Exhaust the shipment for signs of damage.
3. In storage, it is required that all containers be temperature monitored. Monitoring must be placed on each container. Multiple monitors will be included in the same shipment.
4. Remove the instruction card and temperature monitors immediately. Follow the guidelines provided on the box and in the monitors.
5. The expiration date is on the vaccine vials. To determine the expiration date:
   - Use the QR code on the outer carton, or
   - Call 800-444-6300, or
   - Visit www.vaccines.gov
   - Write the expiration date on the carton.

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**Pfizer Storage and Handling Change**

**EU Amsendment**

FDA has amended the Pfizer EUA to allow undiluted, thawed Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine vials to be stored in the refrigerator at 2°C - 8°C for up to 1 month.

- The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine vials must remain undiluted to remain at 2°C - 8°C for 1 month.
- The up to 1-month 2°C - 8°C storage duration must be within the labeled expiration date (i.e., not cumulative).

**Step-down storage & handling for Pfizer COVID-vaccines is now as follows:**

- All Pfizer configurations are shipped ultra cold
- Ultra Cold (-70)
- May be stored in U10 freezer, temporary in the shipper with regular dry ice replenishment
- Frozen (-70)
- Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine vials may remain frozen at -20°C for up to 2 weeks. (unchanged)
- Refrigerated (2°-8°C)
- Pfizer COVID-19 undiluted vial vaccine may remain at 2°C - 8°C for 1 month
- Total storage time for Pfizer is freezer and refrigerator should not exceed 45 days.
Resources

This will open the Order Request screen:

- Enter the quantity of doses for the vaccines that would like to order.
- You will need to order in increments of the minimum order (i.e., you cannot order 1000 or 2000 doses of Pfizer – you would need to order 1170, 2340, 3510 etc.
- Click the Submit Request tab.
- A message will show at the top of the screen: Your vaccine request has been successfully submitted

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Resources

COVID-19 Resources for Vaccines for Children and Teens


[COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7020e1.htm)

[Building Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7020e1.htm)