

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): COVID-19 Vaccine and Boosters

UPDATE: ODP Announcement 22-046

AUDIENCE:

All interested stakeholders

PURPOSE:

To remind the field about a recent update to recommendations from the Pennsylvania Department of Health about details for COVID-19 vaccine and boosters. **Updates are indicated in red.**

DISCUSSION:

On Wednesday, March 30th, 2022, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) issued an update to their COVID-19 vaccine and booster eligibility [guidelines](#). **The CDC updated their COVID-19 Vaccine booster recommendations on May 19th, 2022 to include guidance on boosters for children ages 5 through 11.**

Pennsylvanians age 5 and older are eligible to be vaccinated.

- Children ages 5 through 11 may only receive the Pfizer 5-11-year-old vaccine
- Children ages 12 through 17 may only receive the Pfizer 12+ vaccine
- Adults age 18 and older may receive the Pfizer 12+ vaccine, Moderna vaccine, or Johnson & Johnson vaccine

Pennsylvanians age 5 through 11 are now approved to receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster.

- [CDC now recommends](#) that children ages 5 through 11 years should receive a booster shot 5 months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series.

Pennsylvanians age 12 and older are eligible to schedule a COVID-19 vaccine booster.

- It's recommended that you get boosted five months after your second dose of Pfizer or Moderna.
- It's recommended that you get boosted two months after the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
- The FDA approved a second booster dose for adults 50+ and certain people who are considered to be [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#).
- Any brand of vaccine may be given as a booster dose regardless of the brand of the individual's primary series.
- **Pennsylvanians 12 and older who are immunocompromised should receive a second booster dose at least four months after their first booster.**

Eligible individuals are now able to schedule appointments and receive vaccine or booster doses.

- ODP will not be coordinating clinics for COVID-19 vaccine or booster doses.

Supports Coordination Organizations (SCO) and Supports Coordinators (SC)

- Supports Coordinators (SC) are responsible for ensuring vaccine access for each individual supported by their organization.
- SCs are expected to be aware of vaccine and vaccination process information.
- SCs are responsible to support the vaccination process through coordination of vaccine access and vaccination appointments.

Residential Providers

- Residential service providers are expected to identify a vaccine provider or have a plan for vaccinations of residents.
- Providers encountering difficulty locating vaccine resources can contact: rapwodpemrgncyrspq@pa.gov

Preparedness checklist for long-term care facilities:

- **Evaluate the needs of your population.** Regardless of which vaccine your residents and staff received they can receive any vaccine as their booster.
- **Consider eligible healthcare staff** as potential recipients of booster doses (or a primary series if not yet vaccinated) as well.
- **Work with local pharmacies and providers** to hold booster clinics, administer doses in your facility if possible.

Individuals and Families

- Individuals who need assistance locating a vaccine provider can go to: [Vaccines.gov - Search for COVID-19 vaccine locations](https://www.vaccines.gov)
- Additional assistance is available by calling the PA Health Hotline at 1-877-724-3258

Individuals Requiring Vaccination In-Home

- Individuals who are enrolled in HealthChoices managed care can call their managed care organization (MCO) to request assistance getting their vaccine in their home.
- Individuals who do not have a Medicaid managed care organization and cannot leave their home can contact the COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline at (800) 424-4326.

Hours of operation are 0800 – 1630, Monday through Friday (except some holidays).

Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do to protect Pennsylvanians from COVID-19.

Questions about this announcement may be directed to:

ra-pwodpemrgncysprq@pa.gov

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose recommendations:

