



**Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services**

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December 13, 2022

Standing Order for Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Administration for Infants and Children 6 Months through 4 Years of Age

The Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services, finding it necessary to protect public health and prevent the further spread of COVID-19, pursuant to the authority granted under section 192.020, RSMo, and 19 CSR 20-20.040, hereby orders the following:

**Purpose**

To reduce the morbidity and mortality of the SARS-CoV-2 virus by vaccinating individuals 6 months through 4 years and older in the state of Missouri who meet the criteria established by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

**Policy**

This standing order establishes administration parameters for any individual authorized to administer a COVID-19 vaccine by declaration of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, issued pursuant to the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act. Any healthcare provider who is listed in Attachment A to this Order, that is not expressly authorized to vaccinate by the declaration of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, is authorized to administer a COVID-19 vaccine, if such individual complies with the requirements enumerated Attachment A.

**Procedure**

1. Assess children in need of vaccination against the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine based on the following criteria
  - a. Must be 6 months of age and older
  - b. Any minor authorized to receive this vaccine under this order, shall only receive such with the consent of a parent or guardian, or in compliance with Sections 431.056, 431.058, or 431.061, RSMo.
  - c. Administer Pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine intramuscularly as a series of three doses (0.2 mL/3 mcg each).
    - i. Dose 1 Pfizer-BioNTech Monovalent COVID-19 vaccine
    - ii. Dose 2 Pfizer-BioNTech Monovalent COVID-19 vaccine
    - iii. **Dose 3 Pfizer-BioNTech Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine**
  - d. PfizerBioNTech COVID-19 vaccine may be administered with any other vaccines. Use a different arm for other vaccine administration. It is unknown whether reactogenicity is increased with co-administration, including with other vaccines known to be reactogenic such as adjuvanted vaccines. When deciding to co-administer with COVID-19 vaccines, providers should consider whether the patient is behind or at risk of becoming behind on recommended vaccines and the reactogenicity profile of the vaccines.
  - e. **Dose 3 is now a Pfizer-BioNTech Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine dose and should administered at least 8 weeks after Dose 2 of the Pfizer-BioNTech Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine.**

2. Screen all children for contraindication and precautions for the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine

a. Contraindications

- i. Under 6 months of age
- ii. Do not administer Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to individuals with known history of a severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to any component of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. For more information on vaccine components, refer to the manufactures' package insert [Pfizer HCP FS 6m-4y Maroon 06172022 \(fda.gov\)](#)
- iii. Do not give the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine to an individual who has had an immediate allergic reaction\* of any severity to a previous dose of any mRNA COVID-19 vaccine or any of its components (including polyethylene glycol (PEG))\*\*
- iv. A child 6 months through 4 years of age who has received three (3) Pfizer-BioNTech Monovalent Vaccines should not receive the Bivalent vaccine for this age group.

\*Immediate allergic reaction to a vaccine or medication is defined as any hypersensitivity-related signs or symptoms consistent with urticarial, angioedema, respiratory distress (e.g., wheezing, stridor), or anaphylaxis that occur within four hours following administration of vaccine or Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html#Contraindications>

\*\* These individuals should not receive mRNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccine at this time unless they have been evaluated by an allergist-immunologist and it is determined that the person can safely receive the vaccine (e.g., under observation, in a setting with advanced medical care available)

b. Precautions

- i. Moderate or severe acute illness with or without a fever
- ii. Delay vaccination in individuals in community or outpatient settings who have a known SARS-CoV-2 exposure until quarantine period has ended, unless individual resides in congregate healthcare setting or resident of other congregate settings (e.g., correctional facilities, homeless shelter)
- iii. Polysorbate allergy is a precaution to Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (due to potential cross-reactivity hypersensitivity with the vaccine ingredient PEG)
- iv. Defer vaccination for both symptomatic and asymptomatic COVID-19 patients until they have [completed their isolation period](#) and recover from their illness
- v. Delay vaccination if the individual has had passive antibody therapy for COVID-19 until 90 days have passed from completion of said therapy
- vi. Delay vaccination if infant or child has history of MIS-C until 90 days have passed from the MIS-C diagnosis

3. Special Populations for which special counseling is recommended

a. Immunocompromised

- i. Persons with HIV infection, other immunocompromising conditions, or who take immunosuppressive medications or therapies
- ii. Data not currently available to establish safety and efficacy of vaccine in these groups
- iii. These individuals may still receive COVID-19 vaccine unless otherwise contraindicated
- iv. Individuals should be counseled about:
  1. Unknown vaccine safety and efficacy profiles in

- immunocompromised persons
- 2. Need to continue to follow all current guidance to protect themselves against COVID-19
- 4. Routine testing for Antibody testing is not recommended prior to vaccination
- 5. Provide
  - a. Provide the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) Fact Sheet
    - i. Provide all patients (or in the case of minors or incapacitated adults their legal representative) with a copy of the Emergency Authorization Fact Sheet. Provide non-English language if one is available and desired; these can be found at: [Pfizer Recipient FS 6m-4y Maroon 06172022 \(fda.gov\)](https://www.fda.gov/oc/ohrt/pfizer-recipient-fs-6m-4y-maroon-06172022)
  - b. Provide the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS)
    - i. Provide all patients (or in the case of minors or incapacitated adults their legal representative) with a copy of the most current federal Vaccine Information Statement (VIS). Provide non-English speaking patients with a copy of the VIS in their native language if one is available and desired; these can be found at [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)
- 6. Prepare the vaccine
  - a. Choose the correct needle length for an intramuscular injection

<b>Age of child or adolescent</b>	<b>Needle gauge and length</b>	<b>injection site</b>
6 through 11 months	22-25 gauge and 1" needle length	Anterolateral Aspect of the thigh
12 months to 3 years	22-25 gauge and 1"- 1.25" needle length	Anterolateral Aspect of the thigh
3 years and older	22-25 gauge and 5/8" to 1" needle length	Deltoid
	22-25 gauge and 1" to 1.25" needle length	Anterolateral Aspect of the thigh

- b. Prepare the PfizerBioNTech COVID-19 vaccine
  - i. Thaw the vaccine vial if frozen for 30 minutes at room temperature or for 4 hours in a refrigerator
  - ii. Once thawed remove the cap of the Pfizer vaccine and inject 2.2 ml of 0.9% sodium chloride that comes in the ancillary kit of the vaccine
  - iii. Gently invert the vaccine vial 10 times
  - iv. Document date and time the vaccine was diluted on the Pfizer vaccine vial
  - v. Clean top of Pfizer vaccine vial with alcohol prep pad and with draw 0.2ml of vaccine
  - vi. Discard open vial after 12 hours or after all doses have been removed (Whichever comes first)
  - vii. Each vial should contain 10 doses. Due to production at the factory, an extra dose may occur. However, any remaining vaccine that does not equal a full 0.2ml dose should not be pooled with other remaining vaccine to obtain a full 0.2ml dose.

## 7. Administer

<b>Vaccine Administration Schedule for Children 6 months through 4 years of age</b>				
<b>Vaccine</b>	<b>Dose Number</b>	<b>Dose</b>	<b>Route</b>	<b>Dose Schedule</b>
Pfizer-BioNTech Monovalent Vaccine	Dose #1	0.2ml	Intramuscular	
Pfizer-BioNTech Monovalent Vaccine	Dose #2	0.2ml	Intramuscular	Dose 1 and 2 spaced at least 3-8 weeks apart
Pfizer-BioNTech <b>Bivalent</b> Vaccine	Dose #3	0.2ml	Intramuscular	Dose 2 and Dose 3 separated by at least 8 weeks

<b>Vaccine Administration Schedule for Children 6 months through 4 years of age who are Moderately to Severely Immune Compromised</b>				
<b>Vaccine</b>	<b>Dose Number</b>	<b>Dose</b>	<b>Route</b>	<b>Dose Schedule</b>
Pfizer-BioNTech Monovalent Vaccine	Dose #1	0.2ml	Intramuscular	
Pfizer-BioNTech Monovalent Vaccine	Dose #2	0.2ml	Intramuscular	Dose 1 and 2 spaced at least 3weeks apart
Pfizer-BioNTech <b>Bivalent</b> Vaccine	Dose #3	0.2ml	Intramuscular	Dose 2 and Dose 3 separated by at least 8 weeks

\*Patients who do not receive the 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination dose at 21 days should still receive that 2<sup>nd</sup> dose as soon as possible thereafter. Effectiveness of vaccination when the second dose is given beyond the 6 weeks interval from the first dose administration is unknown. For the most recent updated clinical guidelines visit <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>

\*\* In exceptional situations in which the mRNA vaccine product administered for a previous dose(s) of the primary series cannot be determined or is not available either age-appropriate available mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product may be administered at a minimum interval of 28 days between doses to complete the mRNA COVID-19 primary vaccination series.

All vaccine recipients should be monitored for at least 15 minutes following each vaccination dose.

## 8. Document Vaccination

- a. Consent Form: Record the date the vaccine was administered, the manufacturer and lot number, the vaccination site and route, the vaccine dosage, and the name and title of the person administering the vaccine. Document the VIS/EUA given, and VIS/EUA publication date.
- b. Immunization Record Card: Record the date of vaccination, and the name/location of the administering clinic.
- c. Documentation of the vaccination in Missouri's immunization information system

## 9. Emergency medical protocol for management of anaphylactic reaction in children

- a. If a patient experiences itching and swelling confined to the injection site where the vaccination was given, apply a cold compress to the injection site. Observe patient closely for the development of generalized symptoms until symptoms resolve.
- b. If symptoms are generalized (generalized itching, redness, urticaria (hives); or

include angioedema (swelling of the lips, face, or throat); shortness of breath; shock; or abdominal cramping; call 911 and notify the patient’s physician. Notifications should be done by a second person while the primary healthcare professional assesses the airway, breathing, circulation and level of consciousness of the patient. Vital signs (heart rate, respirations and Blood Pressure, pulse ox) should be taken every 5 minutes.

First Line Treatment Epinephrine

Age group	Range of weight		Epinephrine dose	
			1.0 mg/mL aqueous solution (1:1000 dilution); intramuscular. Minimum dose: 0.05mL	Epinephrine auto injector or prefilled syringe (0.1mg 0.15mg, 0.3mg)
6 months of age	Up to 19 lbs.	Up to 8.5 kg.	0.05mL (mg)	0.1mg**
7 – 36 months	20-32 lbs.	9-14.5 kg.	0.1mL (or mg)	0.1 mg**
37 – 59 months	33-39 lbs.	15-17.5 kg.	0.15mL (mg)	0.15 mg/dose

\*If weight known, then dose by weight is preferred, if unknown then dose by age is appropriate.

\*Rounded weight at the 50th percentile for each age range

\*\* 0.1 mg auto injector is licensed for use in infants and children who weight 7.5-14 kg.

May use Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) as a second line treatment

Age group	Range of weight		Diphenhydramine ( <i>Benadryl</i> ) dose 1mg/kg
7 – 36 months	20-32 lbs.	9-14.5 kg.	10-15 mg/dose
37 – 59 months	33-39 lbs.	15-17.5 kg.	15-20 mg/dose

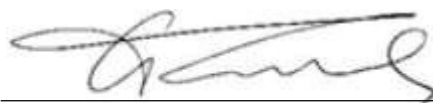
\*If weight known then dose by weight is preferred, if unknown then dose by age is appropriate.

\*Rounded weight at the 50th percentile for each age range

\*\*AAP. Red Book: 2018–2021, 31st ed. (p. 66). Diphenhydramine maximum single dose for children younger than age 12 years is 40 mg.

- i. Monitor the patient closely until EMS arrives. Monitor blood pressure and pulse every 5 minutes.
- ii. If EMS has not arrive and symptoms are still present, repeat dose of epinephrine every 5-15 minutes for up to 3 doses depending on patient’s response.
- iii. Record the patient’s reaction to the vaccine (e.g., hives, anaphylaxis), all vital signs, and medications administered to the patient, including time dosage, response, and the name of the medical personnel who administered the medication and other relevant clinical information. Report the incident to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html> or call 1-800-822-7967.
- iv. Notify the patient’s primary care physician.

This order and procedure shall be effective on December 13, 2022 and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until March 31, 2023.



George Turabelidze, MD, PhD  
State Epidemiologist

**Attachment A**  
**to Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services**  
**Standing Order for Pfizer COVID-19**  
**Vaccine Administration for Children 6 Months through 4 Years of Age**

- The order authorizes any licensed physician, assistant physician, physician's assistant, or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse to prescribe and administer this vaccine. Additionally, any medical student or physician assistant student working under the license and direction of a licensed physician may administer this vaccine.
- The order authorizes any Registered Professional Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse who is licensed by the Missouri Board of Nursing or has a privilege to practice in the State of Missouri from another compact state to administer this vaccine. After receiving documented training nursing students and medical assistants (MA) working under the direction of a licensed nurse may administer this vaccine.
- The order authorizes Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians, Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technician-Basics and Emergency Medical Responders to administer this vaccine, whose authorized scope of practice includes administering immunizations via the intramuscular route
- The order authorizes licensed pharmacist, intern pharmacists and pharmacy technicians with the supervision of a Missouri licensed pharmacist to administer this vaccine, provided the pharmacist, intern pharmacist or pharmacy technician has:
  - a) Documentation of completing 20 hours of practical training on immunizations approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) this training must include hands-on injection technique, clinical evaluation of indications and contraindications of vaccines, and the recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines; and
  - b) Complete a minimum of two hours of ACPE-approved, immunization-related continuing pharmacy education during each state licensing period.
- The order authorizes any of the following individuals to administer this vaccine, provided that such individual held a license, certification, or could have otherwise lawfully administered this vaccine under this order within the last five years. If such individual held a license or certification, such must have been active with no disciplinary action nor under an investigation prior to the date it went inactive, expired or lapsed and must not have been revoked by the licensing authority, in an alternative to discipline program, surrendered while under suspension, surrendered following an arrest, and the individual cannot be on the List of Excluded Individuals/Entities maintained by the Office of the Inspector General. Prior to administering the vaccine, such individual shall: (1) complete the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Vaccine Training Modules <https://www2.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/covid19/>; (2) document their identification and prior license, certification, or experience that would have allowed such individual to lawfully administer this vaccine under this order within the last five years; and (3) certify that the individual does not have any condition or impairment which in anyway affects their ability to administer the vaccine in a competent and safe manner, including but not limited to: (a) a mental, emotional, nervous or sexual disorder; (b) an alcohol or substance abuse disorder; or (c) a physical disease or condition. Such individual shall initially be under the

observation of a currently practicing Missouri licensed or certified healthcare professional adequately experienced in vaccination, who shall review the submitted documentation, initially observe, and confirm the competency of such individual to prepare and administer the vaccine.

If such currently practicing Missouri licensed or certified healthcare professional, who is observing the individual, is unable to confirm the competency of such individual, such individual will not be permitted to administer a vaccine.

- licensed physician;
  - assistant physician;
  - physician's assistant;
  - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse;
  - Registered Professional Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse who is licensed by the Missouri Board of Nursing or has a privilege to practice in the State of Missouri from another compact state to administer this vaccine;
  - Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians, Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technician-Basics and Emergency Medical Responders, whose authorized scope of practice includes administering immunizations via the intramuscular route;
  - licensed pharmacist;
  - pharmacy technicians with the supervision of a Missouri licensed pharmacist to administer this vaccine, provided the pharmacist, intern pharmacist or pharmacy technician has:
    - a) Documentation of completing 20 hours of practical training on immunizations approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) this training must include hands-on injection technique, clinical evaluation of indications and contraindications of vaccines, and the recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines; and
    - b) Completed a minimum of two hours of ACPE- approved, immunization-related continuing pharmacy education during each state licensing period.
- The order authorizes any healthcare provider who is licensed or certified in any state to prescribe, dispense, and/or administer a vaccine, to administer this vaccine. Such individual shall alert the relevant licensing body within the State of Missouri of their intention to administer a COVID-19 vaccine in Missouri and provide their professional credentials to such licensing body.
  - Any individual authorized to administer this vaccine under the order shall be certified to provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or in the case of a medical student or former healthcare provider without current certification to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation, such individual may only administer the vaccine in the presence of someone with current certification to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation
  - Appropriate medical treatment used to manage immediate allergic reactions must be immediately available in the event of an acute anaphylactic reaction following administration of the vaccine.