



Nov. 3, 2021

Dear S.C. COVID-19 Pediatric Provider:

**\*Administration of Pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Authorized**

**The CDC director has accepted the ACIP’s recommendation for pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children between the ages of five and 11 years old, which aligns with the FDA’s emergency use authorization for the pediatric vaccine. You can see the CDC’s media statement [here](#). Pediatric providers receiving the pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine may now start administering it according to the CDC guidelines.**

Pediatric COVID-19 vaccines are being distributed this week to multiple pediatric providers statewide. These include some, but not all, hospitals, DHEC health departments, federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, provider offices, and mobile vaccine vendors. That said, we recognize that while vaccines are making their way to our state, many providers are also working to update and train their staff on the final CDC recommendations for this pediatric vaccine. **DHEC is advising the public to contact providers for vaccine availability prior to visiting a site.**

**Pediatric Providers Must Be Enrolled To Order & Administer Vaccines**

**All pediatric providers interested in administering the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine MUST [enroll as COVID-19 providers now](#). Failure to register now will result in further allocation and delivery delays.**

**Providers currently enrolled in the VFC program must also be enrolled as COVID-19 vaccine providers in to order to administer any of the COVID-19 vaccines to pediatric patients.** You can access the complete COVID-19 provider enrollment process [here](#). If you are not enrolled in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program and would like to be, please begin the enrollment process by contacting [scvfc@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:scvfc@dhec.sc.gov). Additional information on the VFC program can be found [here](#).

**Pediatric Pfizer Vaccine Storage**

**Pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine should be stored for six months in an ultra-cold freezer or for 10 weeks in a refrigerator.**

## **COVID-19 Vaccine for Children Ages 12+**

Children ages 12+ are to be given Pfizer's Comirnaty vaccine.

## **Pfizer's Comirnaty Direct Shipments**

**Please keep in mind that orders for Pfizer's Comirnaty vaccine (ages 12+) will not be available for direct shipment from CDC the week of Nov. 1.** Direct shipment from CDC to providers is expected to resume the week of Nov. 8. Providers receiving redistribution from DHEC can expect to receive doses as normally requested.

## **Future Orders**

**Moving forward, all vaccine order requests must be placed in VAMS by 11:59 p.m. on Monday of every week in order to receive vaccine for the coming week.** DHEC will notify providers of shipping delays should they occur.

## **VAMS Guidance Links**

[CDC VAMS Login](#)

[CDC Resources for Jurisdictions, Clinics, and Organizations](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Guidance](#)

[DHEC VAMS Support](#)

Please send questions to [COVIDVaccines@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:COVIDVaccines@dhec.sc.gov).