

## Washington State Statewide Standing Order for COVID-19 Vaccine

### FAQs for Health Care Providers

#### COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations

- **What national or association recommendations does the COVID-19 Vaccine standing order follow?** This standing order follows guidance from the following organizations:
  - [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\) COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#) for people ages 6 months to 18 years old
  - [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists \(ACOG\) COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#) for pregnant individuals
  - [American Academy of Family Physicians \(AAFP\) COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#) for people ages 19 years and older.

The standing order **does not** follow the CDC Immunization Schedule published August 7, 2025.

- **Is there a summary of the COVID-19 schedules that I can use to vaccinate my patients?** Yes, please review the [DOH COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule](#).
- **Can patients who have an immunocompromised condition and are recommended to receive additional doses self-attest?** Yes, people can self-attest to being immunocompromised and receive additional COVID-19 vaccine doses.
- **FDA no longer authorizes Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine Emergency Use Authorization for children under 5 years of age. Can we continue to administer Pfizer to children under 5 years of age?** No, Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine should no longer be used for children under 5 years. Use Moderna Spikevax for children under 5 years even if a patient started the series with Pfizer vaccine.
- **Can I administer the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines, like the flu shot?** Yes, [it's safe to give COVID-19 and other vaccines during the same visit](#). This is helpful if a patient can't come back for another appointment. Studies

show that getting both vaccines at the same time is safe. Patients might experience slightly more side effects than if they got just one vaccine, but they are usually mild and go away quickly.

- **Is the standing order a vaccine mandate?** The standing order is not a vaccine mandate. The purpose of the standing order is to make vaccines easier to access, so more families can protect their health and their loved ones.

## **Documentation, Eligibility, and Coverage**

- **Do patients need to bring a copy of the standing order to show the pharmacist?** No, it's not required. However, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) recommends that patients bring a digital or printed copy of the standing order to the pharmacy, clinic, or other health care provider giving the vaccine.
- **Do patients have to show ID or proof of eligibility when using the standing order at a pharmacy?** Yes, pharmacies usually ask for identification and insurance information when giving vaccines. Pharmacists and other providers also screen patients for any medical reasons that might prevent them from safely getting the vaccine.
- **Will patients need documentation to prove they are “at risk?”** No, patients do not need to show any proof. The standing order allows anyone 6 months and older to get the COVID-19 vaccine, including those at high risk for severe illness and pregnant individuals.
- **Can minors get the COVID-19 vaccine without parent or guardian consent?** Like all vaccines, anyone under 18 usually needs a parent or guardian's permission to get the COVID-19 vaccine. However, in some cases, minors who are legally independent or experiencing housing instability may be able to consent for themselves or get permission through their school. [Click for more information.](#)
- **Is there a cost for the vaccine if patients use this standing order?** While the standing order provides access to the vaccine, the patient is responsible for the cost of the vaccine.
  - **Private insurance:** To confirm if a vaccine is covered, patients should contact their health plan administrator or the [Office of the Insurance Commissioner](#).
  - **Washington Apple Health (Medicaid):** Continues to cover the COVID-19 vaccine for members, including children, adults, and pregnant people.

- **Medicare:** Continues to cover the COVID-19 vaccine for everyone with Medicare, including people 65+ and those who are immunocompromised.
  - The vaccines are covered under Part B as a preventive service, so Medicare pays 100% —whether it’s the original vaccine or the updated versions. See [2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine pricing information](#) and [Medicare billing guidance](#) for more details.

## Dispensing

**I’m a pharmacist. Whose name, NPI #, and address do I list as the prescribing physician on the prescription when using the standing order?** The standing order functions like an individual prescription written in the recipient’s name. You can list DOH’s State Health Officer for the standing order:

- Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD MPH  
NPI # 1225130941  
P.O. Box 47890, Olympia, WA 98504-7890
- **When does the standing order expire?** There is no expiration date on the standing order. The order will expire when Dr. Kwan-Gett revokes the order or ceases to act as the Secretary of Health’s designee.
- **Are pharmacies required to dispense and administer COVID-19 vaccines under the standing order?** Yes, a pharmacy is required to dispense and administer COVID-19 vaccines pursuant to the terms of the standing order in the same way as any other valid prescription. The standing order is a lawfully written prescription, and, under WAC 246-945-415(2), pharmacies have a duty to deliver lawfully prescribed drugs unless an exception in WAC 246-945-415(2), (3), or (4) applies. Having a collaborative drug therapy agreement (CDTA) in place for COVID-19 vaccines does not relieve a pharmacy of its duty to dispense and administer COVID-19 vaccines under the standing order.

## Liability

- **The standing order recommends that anyone over the age of 6 months can receive a COVID-19 vaccine. This doesn’t follow CDC’s recommendations and FDA licensure. What is my liability if I give this vaccine “off-label”?** Providers are covered by the same professional liability and malpractice standards that apply to their other medical decisions. Prescribing off-label is a common practice in health care. Providers prescribe [1 in 5](#) medications off-label.

Health care professionals use clinical judgment to recommend what they believe is best for their patients. Providers may follow evidence-based guidelines from national associations. Examples include guidelines by the American Academy of

Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

- **Does this standing order protect me against liability for giving COVID-19 vaccine “off label”?** You are covered by the same professional liability and malpractice standards regardless of the standing order.

## References

- **What references did you use for the standing order?** The following references informed the standing order. But the standing order is in effect regardless of changes in these references.
  - Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States. CDC. May 1, 2025.
  - Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for Ages 18 Years or Younger, 2025. CDC. November 21, 2024.
  - Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule for Ages 19 Years or Younger, 2025. CDC. November 21, 2024.
  - COVID-19 Vaccine Considerations Contraindications and Precautions. CDC. May 1, 2025.
  - COVID-19 Vaccine Considerations for People with a History of Allergies or Allergic Reactions. CDC. May 1, 2025.
  - General Immunization Best Practices for Preventing and Managing Adverse Reactions. CDC. July 25, 2024.
- **Where can I find more resources?**
  - [AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf](#)
  - [COVID-19 Vaccination Considerations for Obstetric–Gynecologic Care | ACOG](#)
  - [Adult Immunization Schedule | AAFP](#)
  - [Checklist of Current Versions of U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance and Clinic Support Tools](#)
  - [Ask The Experts About Vaccines: COVID-19 | Immunize.org](#)
  - [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Health Care Providers | Washington State Department of Health](#)
  - <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-09/3481124-COVID19VaccineSchedule.pdf>