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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Governor

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Commissioner

STANDING ORDER FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION

CONTROL NUMBER: 2026-002

A) AUTHORITY

This Standing Order is issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Public Health Services of the New Jersey Department of Health in his official capacity authorizing pharmacists, pharmacy interns, pharmacy externs, and pharmacy technicians practicing in the State of New Jersey, in accordance with their respective scopes of practice, to administer age-appropriate, FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccines to eligible individuals.

Pharmacists, pharmacy interns, pharmacy externs, and pharmacy technicians are authorized to administer COVID-19 vaccines to persons aged 3 years and older pursuant to the 12th Amendment to the Declaration under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act, through December 31, 2029. Should the PREP Act Declaration terminate prior to the expected date, pharmacy personnel shall be authorized pursuant to existing New Jersey statutes and rules governing immunization by pharmacy personnel.

B) PURPOSE

To prevent individual cases and outbreaks of COVID-19 in New Jersey, individuals must have ready access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Preventing the spread of COVID-19 through vaccination provides individuals and communities with protections from the physical sequelae, morbidities, and mortalities that this disease can cause and curtails the associated high social costs, such as absenteeism from school and work and healthcare system strain, that otherwise would burden children, families, older adults, and the community at-large when COVID-19 rates are high. The purpose of this standing order is to ensure equitable, timely, and consistent access to FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccines for all eligible individuals in New Jersey, consistent with the American Academy of Pediatrics 2026 immunization schedule, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommendations for use in pregnancy, the American Academy of Family Physicians 2026 immunization recommendations, and robust expert evidence by scientific groups including, but not limited to, the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy's Vaccine Integrity Project at the University of Minnesota. Accordingly, this Standing Order is issued to protect and promote the health of individuals in New Jersey by conforming COVID-19 vaccination access with evidence-based recommendations and schedules for eligible individuals.

C) PROCEDURES

Indication and Eligibility

An age-appropriate COVID-19 vaccine is indicated for active immunization for any person aged 6 months or older who desires protection from COVID-19. *However, in accordance with the PREP Act Declaration, pharmacists, pharmacy interns, pharmacy externs and pharmacy technicians may only administer vaccines to children 3 years of age and older.*

Pregnant individuals are recommended to receive an updated COVID-19 vaccine at the earliest opportunity in any trimester; post-partum and lactating persons are also recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

2026 – 2027 COVID-19 Vaccine

The following 2026 –2027 products have been FDA-approved:

Moderna — SPIKEVAX (2026 - 2027 COVID-19, mRNA)

Route: Intramuscular

Ages: 65 years of age and older, or 6 months* through 64 years of age

OR

Moderna – mNEXSPIKE (2026 – 2027 COVID-19, mRNA)

Route: Intramuscular

Ages: 65 years of age and older, or 12 years through 64 years of age

OR

Pfizer-BioNTech — COMIRNATY (2026 – 2027 COVID-19, mRNA))

Route: Intramuscular

Ages: 65 years of age and older, or 5 years through 64 years of age

OR

Novavax-Sanofi — NUVAXOVID (2026–2027 COVID-19, protein based)

Route: Intramuscular

Ages: 65 years of age and older, or 12 years through 64 years

*It is noted that the Moderna SPIKEVAX is FDA approved for ages 6 months and older. However, this ORDER is limited to ages 3 years and older, consistent with the scopes of practice established by the PREP Act Declaration for pharmacists, pharmacy interns, pharmacy externs, and pharmacy technicians for immunization administration.

Contraindications and Precautions

Screen for contraindications and precautions to vaccination. Do not administer COVID-19 vaccine to individuals with a known history of severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to any component of the vaccine or to individuals who had a severe allergic reaction following a previous dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Patient Education

The individual should be provided the Information for Recipients and Caregivers or the Vaccine Information Sheet (VIS), as applicable, to understand side effects, warnings and precautions, drug interactions, and contradictions. If the patient has questions, then the pharmacist may recommend the individual contact their primary care practitioner to engaged in shared clinical decision-making and assist the individual in making an informed vaccination decision.

Manage Medical Emergencies

Be prepared to manage medical emergencies related to the administration of vaccines by having a written emergency protocol available, as well as equipment and medication. Please refer to the [Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Adults in Community Settings](#) and the Medical [Management of Vaccine Reactions in Children and Teens in a Community Setting](#).

Vaccine Administration

Administer a COVID-19 vaccine dose that is FDA-approved for the age of the patient. Refer to the schedules, intervals, doses, routes of administration and underlying conditions recommended by the following:

- [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\) for children <19 years of age](#)
- [American Academy of Family Physicians \(AAFP\) for adults 19 years of age and older](#)
- [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists \(ACOG\) for persons who are pregnant, post-partum and/or lactating](#)

COVID-19 vaccines may be administered at the same time as other vaccines including the influenza vaccines. The vaccines should be administered at different anatomic sites.

If multiple doses of the COVID-19 are recommended, the patient should receive doses of the same product.

Documentation and Reporting

Provide proof of vaccination to the recipient.

Enter all doses in the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS) as required by N.J.S.A. 26:4-134 and N.J.A.C. 8:57-3.

Report vaccine administration errors and adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Report all adverse events following the administration of COVID-19 vaccine to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). To submit a VAERS report online (preferred) or to download a writable PDF form, go to <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>. Further assistance is available at (800) 822-7967.

D) INSURANCE and BILLING

For insurance coverage and billing for the administered COVID-19 vaccine, the pharmacy will request the individual's insurance information. While the pharmacy will obtain the individual's insurance information, this Standing Order does not guarantee insurance coverage as insurance coverage and administration for COVID-19 vaccines may vary based on insurance policies and individual plans.

E) LIMITATIONS

This Standing Order does not establish the New Jersey Department of Health, or its clinicians, as a healthcare provider for an individual. Individuals seeking medical advice on vaccinations should contact a primary care provider.

F) EXPIRATION AND REVIEW

This standing order shall take effect immediately and replaces the COVID-19 Vaccination Standing Order issued on September 8, 2025. This standing order shall remain in force and effect until modified, supplemented, superseded, or rescinded.

New Jersey Department of Health
Issuing Official:



Date: 7/28/26

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