



# State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health

**DATE:** October 20, 2021  
**TO:** COVID-19 Vaccination Providers  
**FROM:** Frank Welch, M.D.  
Immunization Program Medical Director  
**SUBJECT:** **Pre-order Pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccines Now**

**Please route to:**

- **Primary COVID-19 Vaccination Coordinators**
- **Other vaccination staff**

## **Pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccines – Pre-Order Now**

- Once fully authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under Emergency use Authorization (EUA) and recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), pediatric COVID-19 Pfizer vaccines for children ages 5-11 will initially be available in *limited quantities*.
- The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) will release official guidance through a Health Alert Network (HAN) message once the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine can be administered.
- The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will meet to discuss recommendation of the vaccine on November 2 and 3.
- Providers are **now able to pre-order** an initial quantity of pediatric COVID-19 Pfizer vaccines through a designated pediatric vaccine order submission in LINKS. Providers should order enough vaccine to last 2-3 weeks. You will see a new order form called "COVID-19 Pediatric" that you need to select from the order set dropdown box.
- The initial pediatric COVID-19 vaccine order submission deadline is 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, October 27.**
- Providers should order enough vaccine to cover both first and second dose for pediatric patients seeking the vaccination; there will not be any automatic second doses shipped, as was done when adult vaccines were limited. (For example, if you expect to vaccinate 100 pediatric patients in the first 2-3 weeks, please pre-order 200 vaccines to provide each patient with their first and second doses.)
- Single pre-order dose quantity must be at least 20 doses.
- **First vaccine shipments to providers will begin arriving at provider sites the week of November 1,** and shipments could arrive into the following week (week of November 8) as well. Even if you receive doses before the full CDC recommendations are announced, no doses should be administered until a final announcement from LDH has been released.
- Please do not schedule appointments until after doses have been received.
- Be advised that quantities are limited in this first wave of vaccine availability and distribution, so originally submitted pre-order quantities may be reduced by the Immunization Program to allow for equitable distribution of vaccines across the state.

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- During this first wave of vaccine availability and distribution, Morris & Dickson, the state's COVID-19 vaccine redistributor, will deliver all pediatric COVID-19 vaccine shipments.
- Morris & Dickson will transport and deliver all pediatric vaccines at refrigerated temperatures (2-8 degrees Celsius) and vials cannot be refrozen upon receipt.
- Opportunities to order additional vaccines will come later, as more pediatric vaccine becomes available to Louisiana.

### **About the Vaccines**

Pfizer COVID-19 pediatric vaccines will be available in 10-dose vials in packages containing 10 vials. The pediatric vaccines will have an orange cap and label to distinguish them from the adolescent/adult formulation (purple caps). The pediatric vaccines will require diluent that will be provided with other supplies for use in children. The vaccines can be stored for 10 weeks in a refrigerator at 2-8 degrees Celsius. This is not yet official, but we do expect the recommended period between first and second dose administration to be 21 days, following the same period as the adult/adolescent version of the vaccine. **See attached guide that describes the new pediatric vaccine in more detail, plus storage conditions, and compares it to the current adult/adolescent version (note: information within the attached is preliminary and subject to change).**

More detailed information on the Pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will be provided once the vaccine has been fully authorized and recommended for use.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this memorandum, please contact the Immunization Program at [la.immunization@la.gov](mailto:la.immunization@la.gov) and/or participate in the **Immunization Program's Pediatric Pfizer Vaccine – Provider Q & A session/webinar from 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. on Thursday, October 21.** Webinar link: <https://ldhophbidimmunization.zoom.us/j/88904964747>