



Health Alert



City of Chicago
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Chicago Department of Public Health
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COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Update: Adolescent Vaccination Expanded May 14, 2021

- **On May 12, 2021, ACIP voted to recommend Pfizer vaccine in 12- to 15-year-olds.**
 - ACIP also revised guidance on the coadministration of routine vaccines with COVID-19 vaccine, removing the 14-day minimum interval for administration of any other vaccine before or after a COVID-19 vaccine. **This means you can give all teens their routine/catch-up shots at the same time!**
 - An MMWR will be published today; the [Interim Clinical Considerations](#) webpage will be updated.
 - Remind parents/guardians that they should complete V-safe surveys on behalf of their adolescent children, even if there are no side effects. [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Specific Groups](#) has been updated.
 - **New web page:** [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#) **New fact sheet:** [COVID-19 Vaccines for Preteens and Teens](#)
 - **New frequently asked questions:** Two [new FAQs](#) - safety and benefits of vaccination for adolescents aged 12 and older.
 - **New myth-buster about menstrual cycles:** [question and answer](#) **Myth-buster about infertility:** [question and answer](#)
- **Avoid all missed opportunities** (even if you puncture an extra vial for 1 person!) and don't turn anyone away.
 - Watch the [Ensuring every patient who wants a vaccine can get a vaccine](#) video for more details.
 - Vaccinate all unvaccinated family members as you start vaccinating kids.
 - Don't let transportation be a barrier! **Free Uber and Lyft rides to vax clinics available through July 4th.**
- **Friday Update calls:**
 - 12pm CT – *Situational Awareness for COVID-19 Vaccine Providers*
 - Click <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/85094959993> or 312-626-6799 (ID: 850 9495 9993)
 - 1-2pm CT – CDC COCA call: *What Physicians need to know What Clinicians Need to Know About Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccination of Adolescents* https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2021/callinfo_051421.asp

Pfizer Storage and Handling Reminders: Now that Pfizer is recommended for 12 years and above, more outpatient providers will be stocking the vaccine and need to familiarize themselves with the storage and handling requirements.

- **Undiluted vials maybe stored at the following temperature ranges:**
 - **PHARMACEUTICAL FREEZER:** Between -25°C and -15°C for up to two weeks. For now, only move vaccine from the freezer to the refrigerator that you are planning to use within the next 2 days.
 - **REFRIGERATOR:** Between 2°C and 8°C for up to 120 hours (5 days)
*submitted new data to FDA supporting stability of vaccine when stored for up to one month (31 days) at 2-8°C
 - **ROOM TEMPERATURE:** No more than 2 hours at room temperature. Make plans to utilize all doses within the storage timeframe.
- **Diluted vials must be stored between 2°C and 25°C and used within 6 hours of dilution.**
- Do not re-freeze thawed vaccine. After the 2-week time frame in the freezer, you have two options: You may transfer vaccine to refrigerated storage between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 120 hours (5 days). After 120 hours (5 days), contact the manufacturer for guidance. Record and report the temperatures of your fridge and freezer twice per day in I-CARE. Continue to monitor updated guidance storage guidance on [CDC website](#). A "CDPH Pfizer Quick Tip" document will begin to be distributed with vaccine shortly.

Vaccinating Special Adolescent Populations: Data from Chicago Public Schools shows that 1152 unaccompanied students (defined as >14 years old, living separate from parents or legal guardian with or without consent, and managing his/her own financial affairs) were enrolled as of March 2020. The number of "Minors seeking care" could be much larger for the entire city combined. Please update your staff on the following Illinois legislation:

- 410 ILCS §210/1.5 Regarding "Minor seeking care" (as defined above) can consent for primary care services if: (1) the health care professional reasonably believes the minor understands the benefits and risks of services; and (2) the minor is identified in writing as a "minor seeking care" by an adult relative, homeless service agency, attorney, school district homeless liaison or social worker, youth-serving social service agency, religious organization.