

Pharmacy Setting 2025-26 COVID-19 Vaccine Protocols

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

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Can pharmacists in Minnesota provide the 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccine?

- The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) implemented a protocol (standing order) for pharmacists to help make COVID-19 vaccines accessible by authorizing pharmacists (or their delegated, qualified pharmacy personnel) to administer the 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccines to people 3 through 64 years of age who meet the criteria established by MDH.
- This protocol (standing order) is effective Sept. 22 – Sept. 21, 2026.
- The protocols (standing orders) are available on [Immunization Delivery in Pharmacy Settings \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/pharmacists.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/pharmacists.html).

What is a vaccine protocol (standing order) for pharmacists?

- Vaccine protocols (standing orders) allow people to be vaccinated in pharmacy settings in Minnesota without the need for a prescription from their health care provider.
- Vaccine protocols (standing orders) make care easier to access. They are not directives and do not require anyone to receive care.

Who can obtain the 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccine at a pharmacy in Minnesota?

- Pharmacists may give the 2025-26 COVID vaccine to those 65 years and older through routine pharmacy vaccination processes and procedures, as the vaccine is FDA-approved for those 65 years of age and older.

- Pharmacists may give the 2025-26 COVID vaccines under the MDH protocol (standing order) to all eligible people 3 through 64 years of age.
- For children 6 months through 2 years of age, it is recommended they seek care with their primary care provider for 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccination.

Who can provide the COVID-19 vaccine at a pharmacy in Minnesota?

- Pharmacists legally permitted to administer immunizations may administer the 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccines to all eligible people 3 years of age and older.
- A pharmacist may delegate the authority to administer the 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccine to a pharmacy intern who has successfully completed approved training in vaccine administration, uses the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) appropriately, and follows all other related legal requirements.
- A pharmacist may also delegate the authority to administer the 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccine to nurses supporting pharmacists in administration of vaccines in pharmacy settings.

Can children obtain the 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccine at a Minnesota pharmacy?

- Children 3 years of age and older can be vaccinated with the 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccine at pharmacies in Minnesota.
- Those 6 months through 2 years of age are recommended to seek care with their primary care provider for the 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccination.
- COVID-19 vaccine is particularly important for children 6 months through 23 months of age, as they are at higher risk of severe COVID-19, even if they are healthy. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends all infants and children in this age group who do not have a contraindication receive the 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccine.

Is a prescription required to obtain the 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccine at a Minnesota pharmacy?

- A prescription is not needed if the pharmacy is using the MDH pharmacy protocol (standing order).
- Anyone 3 years of age and older who desires (or their guardian/parent desires) can be vaccinated in a pharmacy, if they do not have a contraindication or precaution of concern. This is especially important if someone has a medical condition, is pregnant or lactating, or is in a high-risk group (including being a resident of a long-term care facility or other congregate care, has household contacts who are at high risk for severe COVID-19, or has never been vaccinated).
 - For those 3 through 64 years of age, there is an MDH non-patient specific pharmacy protocol which allows pharmacists to provide the 2025-26 to eligible people.
 - For those 65 years of age and older, routine pharmacy vaccination processes and procedures will be followed, as the vaccine is FDA-approved for those 65 years of age and older.

Visit [AAP: 2025-2026 COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations: FAQ \(www.aap.org/en/patient-care/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions/\)](https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions/) and [CDC: People with Certain Medical Conditions and COVID-19 Risk Factors \(www.cdc.gov/covid/risk-factors/index.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/covid/risk-factors/index.html) for lists of high-risk underlying conditions or treatments. Note these lists are not exhaustive. People (or their parents or guardians) may self-attest to their underlying condition.

The indications in the MDH 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccination administration protocol for pharmacists are based on recommendations from:

- [AAP: Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccines in Infants, Children, and Adolescents: Policy Statement \(https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/doi/10.1542/peds.2025-073924/203222/Recommendations-for-COVID-19-Vaccines-in-Infants\)](https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/doi/10.1542/peds.2025-073924/203222/Recommendations-for-COVID-19-Vaccines-in-Infants).
- [AAFP: COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance For Family Physicians \(www.aafp.org/family-physician/patient-care/public-health-emergencies/recent-outbreaks/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine.html\)](http://www.aafp.org/family-physician/patient-care/public-health-emergencies/recent-outbreaks/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine.html).
- [ACOG: Facts Are Important: COVID-19 Vaccines \(www.acog.org/advocacy/facts-are-important/covid-19-vaccines\)](http://www.acog.org/advocacy/facts-are-important/covid-19-vaccines).

Can the COVID-19 vaccine be co-administered with other seasonal respiratory virus vaccines?

- Seasonal influenza vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine can be given simultaneously.
- If someone is eligible for RSV vaccine (currently, a single lifetime dose), this can also be administered.

What are MDH's recommendations for the 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccine?

MDH endorses existing evidence-based guidance from independent experts and professional organizations such as:

- [AAP: Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for Ages 18 Years or Younger \(https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf\)](https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf).
- [AAP-Immunization-Schedule \(https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf\)](https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf). Notes section for COVID-19.
- [AAFP: Immunizations & Vaccines \(www.aafp.org/family-physician/patient-care/prevention-wellness/immunizations-vaccines.html\)](http://www.aafp.org/family-physician/patient-care/prevention-wellness/immunizations-vaccines.html).
- [ACOG: COVID-19 Vaccination Considerations for Obstetric–Gynecologic Care \(www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/12/covid-19-vaccination-considerations-for-obstetric-gynecologic-care\)](http://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/12/covid-19-vaccination-considerations-for-obstetric-gynecologic-care).

MDH COVID-19 vaccine resources

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Access for Minnesotans \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/access.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/access.html).
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Providers \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/provider.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/provider.html).
- [2025-2026 Combined Respiratory Vaccine Recommendations \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/resprec.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/resprec.pdf).

Will insurance cover the 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccine?

- Check with your health insurance provider and talk to your pharmacist or health care provider for more information on insurance coverage and cost.
- The MDH 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccine administration protocol does not guarantee insurance coverage of the COVID-19 vaccine. Coverage for the COVID-19 vaccine is dependent upon, and may vary based on, insurance policies and individual plans.
- Health insurance companies can choose to cover COVID-19 vaccine regardless of Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) recommendations. MDH and the Minnesota Department of Commerce will work with health plans to ensure continued coverage for vaccines.

- The 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccine may be available at no cost through many insurance plans, including Medicare Part B.
- COVID-19 vaccine is available through the MnVFC program for children under 19 years of age who are: uninsured, underinsured, Medicaid-eligible, or American Indian or Alaska Native.

Will all pharmacies use this standing order (protocol)?

- The MDH 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccine protocol (standing order) was implemented to ensure that people have access to COVID-19 vaccines in pharmacies. However, the pharmacy will determine whether they will operate under the 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccine protocol (standing order).
- People should check with their local pharmacy and pharmacist to see if they will be offering the 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccine using this protocol (standing order).

What if my pharmacy is not using the 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccine standing order (protocol)?

Talk to your local pharmacy and pharmacist, check with other pharmacies that may offer the 2025-26 COVID-19 vaccine under the protocol (standing order), and discuss with your health care provider.

Could this MDH standing order (protocol) change?

MDH continues to monitor the science and evidence-based information for COVID-19 vaccine recommendations as well as state and national regulations for vaccines. MDH will make updates to the standing order (protocol), as needed.

Additional resources

- [AAP: COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions \(www.aap.org/en/patient-care/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions/\)](http://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions/).
- [AAP: COVID Vaccine Dosing Quick Reference \(https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/COVID%20Vaccine%20Dosing_Quick%20Reference.pdf\)](https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/COVID%20Vaccine%20Dosing_Quick%20Reference.pdf).
- [AAFP: Adult Immunization Schedule \(www.aafp.org/family-physician/patient-care/prevention-wellness/immunizations-vaccines/immunization-schedules/adult-immunization-schedule.html\)](http://www.aafp.org/family-physician/patient-care/prevention-wellness/immunizations-vaccines/immunization-schedules/adult-immunization-schedule.html).
- [ACOG: Facts Are Important: COVID-19 Vaccines \(www.acog.org/advocacy/facts-are-important/covid-19-vaccines\)](http://www.acog.org/advocacy/facts-are-important/covid-19-vaccines).
- [Immunize.org: COVID-19 Immunization Resources for Healthcare Providers \(www.immunize.org/vaccines/a-z/covid-19/\)](http://www.immunize.org/vaccines/a-z/covid-19/).
- [CIDRAP: Vaccine Integrity Project - Fall Immunization Information \(www.cidrap.umn.edu/vaccine-integrity-project/immunization-info\)](http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/vaccine-integrity-project/immunization-info).

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PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-5414 | www.health.state.mn.us/immunize

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5414.