



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

Maryland Department of Health 2025-2026 COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Order

Effective Date: September 19, 2025

Purpose: To reduce morbidity and mortality from COVID-19, this Maryland Department of Health statewide Standing Order hereby authorizes qualified health care professionals to administer vaccinations under the Health Occupations Article and outlines the policies and procedures necessary for administering the 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine to individuals who meet the criteria established by the Maryland Department of Health, as supported by evidence-based guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

Authority: The Maryland Department of Health is the lead agency responsible for protecting the health interests of the people of Maryland and in accordance with Health-General Articles §§ 2-105(b) and 18-102, the Secretary is authorized to issue this Standing Order to act properly in controlling the spread of an infectious and contagious disease that affects the public health of Marylanders. This standing order authorizes health care providers to administer the most updated versions of the COVID-19 vaccines to all persons aged 6 months and older, including pregnant individuals, consistent with applicable law and the terms and conditions below. For pharmacists only, this Standing Order authorizes COVID vaccinations for eligible persons age 3 years and older in accordance with Health Occ. Article, § 12-508(a).

Terms and Conditions: In accordance with this Standing Order, Maryland health care providers should adhere to the most current evidence-based guidelines developed by the AAP, ACOG, and AAFP as standards and exercise reasonable medical judgment in vaccinating their patients as set forth below.

Procedure:

1. Assess the individual for COVID-19 vaccination consistent with reasonable medical judgment and using the following evidence-based guidance that is most suitable for the individual being vaccinated:
 - Pediatrics (ages 6 months–18 years): American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) COVID-19 vaccine guidance at www.AAP.org/ImmunizationSchedule
 - Pregnant Individuals (all ages as applicable): American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) COVID-19 vaccine guidance at <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/12/covid-19-vaccination-considerations-for-obstetric-gynecologic-care>
 - Adults (ages 19 years and older): American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) COVID-19 vaccine guidance at

<https://www.aafp.org/family-physician/patient-care/prevention-wellness/immunizations-vaccines/immunization-schedules/adult-immunization-schedule.html>

2. Screen the individual for the contraindications and precautions for COVID-19 vaccination:
 - Contraindications for COVID-19 vaccination:
 - A severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Precautions for COVID-19 vaccination:
 - History of:
 - A diagnosed non-severe allergy to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Non-severe, immediate (onset less than 4 hours) allergic reaction after administration of a previous dose of one COVID-19 vaccine type, if receiving the same vaccine type.
 - Moderate to severe acute illness, with or without fever.
 - Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) or adults (MIS-A).
 - Myocarditis or pericarditis within 3 weeks after a dose of any COVID-19 vaccine.
3. Provide the appropriate Vaccine Information Statements (VIS).
 - Provide all patients with a copy of the most current federal vaccine information statement (VIS). Provide non-English speaking patients with a copy of the VIS in their native language, if one is available and desired.
 - COVID-19 VIS:
https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/current-vis/covid-19.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/covid-19.html
4. Prepare to administer the vaccine:
 - Verify that the label on the vaccine states 2025-2026 Formula.
 - Choose the needle gauge, needle length, and injection site appropriate for the patient.
5. Administer any recommended, age-appropriate, COVID-19 vaccine using the vaccine product and dosing chart below.

COVID-19 vaccine products and dosing based on age:

Age	COVID-19 Vaccine product	Dosage
6 months through 4 years	Moderna (Spikevax)	0.25 mL/25 µg
5 years through 11 years	Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty)	0.3 mL/10 µg
	Moderna (Spikevax)	0.25 mL/25 µg
12 years and older	Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty)	0.3 mL/30 µg

	Moderna (Spikevax)	0.5 mL/50 µg
	Novavax (Nuvaxovid)	0.5 mL/5 µg rS and 50 µg of Matrix-M adjuvant
	Moderna (mNEXSPIKE)	0.2 mL/10 µg

6. Document the vaccination in the following places:

- Medical record: Record the date the vaccine was administered, the manufacturer and lot number, the vaccination site and route, and the name of the person administering the vaccine. You must also document, in the patient's medical record or office log, the publication date of the VIS and the date it was given to the patient.
- ImmuNet (the Maryland immunization immunization system): Ensure that the vaccination is recorded in ImmuNet, in accordance with Health-General §18-109 and COMAR 10.06.03.

7. Be prepared to manage medical emergencies:

- Vaccinators should know how to recognize and respond to vaccine reactions, including anaphylaxis. Have a plan and supplies ready to provide appropriate medical care if an event occurs. At a minimum, plans used under this standing order should include the elements included in Immunize.org's "Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions" plans for adults and children, or teens.
 - For Immunize.org's "Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Children and Teens in a Community Setting," go to www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3082a.pdf.
 - For Immunize.org's "Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Adults in a Community Setting," go to www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3082.pdf.

8. Report adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).

Expiration: This policy and procedure is effective September 19, 2025 shall remain in effect until withdrawn by the Maryland Department of Health Secretary, or on September 18, 2026, whichever comes first. The Maryland Department of Health retains the right to modify, rescind or supplement this order as needed.

Signature:



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