



**Bulletin:** Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Updates and COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Qualifications and Process

**To:** Pediatricians and Family Physicians

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**Date:** May 28, 2021

### **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Updates**

There are two recent updates related to the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine:

1. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved [new storage guidelines](#) for Pfizer: undiluted and thawed Pfizer doses may now be stored in a refrigerator (2°C to 8°C (35°F to 46°F)) for up to a month (previously 5 days) – this is in addition to storing at normal freezer temperatures (-25°C to -15°C (13°F to 5°F)); and
2. Pfizer will begin issuing limited allocations of trays with 450 doses, in addition to trays of 1170 doses, beginning June 1, 2021. More information can be found [here](#).

### **Impact of New Changes to Providers**

1. Practices can now store undiluted/un-punctured vials in a freezer at -25°C to -15°C (13°F to 5°F) for 14 days. Practices may then store undiluted/un-punctured, thawed vaccine in a refrigerator at 2°C to 8°C (35°F to 46°F) for up to a month. This means providers can store Pfizer outside of ultra-cold freezer temperatures for up to 45 days.

Note: Practices must continue to use doses prior to their expiration date.

2. The ability to store Pfizer longer outside of ultra-cold freezer temperatures coupled with the smaller tray size of 450 doses is expected to expand the number of practices that can store and handle Pfizer.

Note: The Pfizer 450 dose trays will be in limited supply; only 30 percent of the entirety of Pfizer trays will be produced at this size.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Qualification Process

To be qualified to receive the vaccine directly, providers must have completed each of the items below. (For details on the ImmuNet registration process, please review the [reference guide](#).)

1. Have an [ImmuNet](#) account and related PIN identification number
2. Completed the additional ImmuNet fields to register as a COVID vaccine provider
  - a. Completed the CDC COVID-19 provider agreement (found in your Provider's ImmuNet profile)
3. Be actively reporting in ImmuNet, either via your electronic health record (EHR) or by uploading CSV files daily using the CRISP reporting template
  - a. For providers with an EHR: confirm your EHR is able to submit [phase 2 data elements](#) (includes: race, ethnicity, email, mobile) to ImmuNet within 24 hours of vaccine administration, per the [CDC provider agreement](#) and the [Governor's Executive Order - 01.05.2021](#).
  - b. Providers without an EHR should [strongly consider the use of an EHR](#) to report required data elements. Providers failing to report within 24 hrs may be prohibited from receiving additional COVID-19 vaccine.
4. Have the ability to:
  - a. Store 1170 or 450 doses of Pfizer vaccine, and
  - b. Utilize/store 1170 or 450 doses within the required timeframes for Pfizer doses:
    - i. 6-month storage: ultra-cold freezers [undiluted/un-punctured],
    - ii. Up to 2 weeks: normal freezer [undiluted/un-punctured], and/or
    - iii. Up to one month: refrigerator [undiluted/un-punctured and thawed] .

Note: Registration completion does *not* mean COVID-19 vaccine will be immediately available for ordering.

## Other Resources

Interested in reading more about vaccine administration, ImmuNet vaccine reporting requirements or guidance on how to talk to parents and children about the COVID-19 vaccine? Visit the MDPCP's (Maryland Primary Care Providers) Coronavirus webpage at <https://health.maryland.gov/mdpcp/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

If you scroll down, you will find a new section titled "Providers Vaccinating Youth Ages 12 and Older".

Also attached is an FAQ. This document will be updated weekly and posted on this webpage. Please visit the webpage for subsequent versions of this FAQ.