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To: Wisconsin Pharmacists

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COVID-19 Vaccination for Wisconsin's Youngest Children

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Summary

Thank you for all the work that you do, especially during the pandemic. We all know that vaccines help keep children and their families healthy. Your ongoing work in vaccinating Wisconsinites against COVID-19 is making a difference. Pharmacists and pharmacies, in partnership with other health care providers, remain a critical component in increasing access to vaccinations for Wisconsin children and their families.

Please help us to improve the health of Wisconsin's youngest children through your continued dedication to administering the COVID-19 vaccine across our residents' lifespans.

Background

DHS is actively planning for the vaccination of Wisconsin's youngest children.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is planning for the rollout of the new Moderna (blue cap) vaccine for children 6 months through 5 years of age and/or the Pfizer (maroon cap) for children 6 months through 4 years of age. DHS expects this effort to include many collaborative partners throughout the state.

We need your help in vaccinating younger children against COVID-19.

Pharmacies play an important role in getting younger children vaccinated against COVID-19. Many parents will take their children 6 months and older to their pediatricians or primary care providers to get vaccinated. However, many parents will continue to depend upon you to provide vaccinations to their younger children, especially those families who live in areas that have limited pediatricians and other primary care providers or are medically underserved.

Federal actions and Wisconsin law allow pharmacy vaccination of younger children.

Since March 2020, a pharmacist is temporarily authorized by the federal government to order and administer vaccinations for children ages 3 and up for COVID-19 and other recommended vaccines. This has temporarily been permitted since the Secretary of Health and Human Services issued a Declaration under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act and accompanying [issued guidance](#).

Because Wisconsin statute permits pharmacists to order and administer recommended vaccines to people ages 6 and older, the PREP Act applies to Wisconsin pharmacists when ordering and administering vaccinations to children ages 3-5. A pharmacist may order and administer a COVID or ACIP-recommended vaccination to a person aged 3-5 if all of the following are met:

- The pharmacist must inform a person under age 18 and the adult caregivers accompanying the person of the importance of a well-child visit with a pediatrician or other licensed primary-care provider and refer patients as appropriate.
- The pharmacist completed at least 12 hours of training per Wis. Stat. 450.035, including training on pediatric vaccination if vaccinating below age 6.
- The pharmacist must have a current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- The pharmacist must complete 2 hours of immunization-related ACPE-approved CE during the licensing period.

In addition, the pharmacist may administer vaccines to children under the age of 3 per Wis. Stat. 450.035 if all of the following are met:

- The vaccine is administered pursuant to a prescription order issued within the 29 days immediately preceding the day on which the vaccine is administered.
- The pharmacist completed at least 12 hours of training per Wis. Stat. 450.035, including training on pediatric vaccination if vaccinating below age 6.

Further, the PREP Act expanded allowances for pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations. An Intern can vaccinate a person age 3+ per the ACIP schedule (including COVID vaccines authorized/approved by ACIP). Interns cannot vaccinate anyone younger than age 3. All of the following must be met:

- The Intern is supervised by a pharmacist if vaccinating ages 3-5 or by a healthcare professional trained in immunizations (including pharmacists) if vaccinating ages 6+.
- The Intern must complete at least 12 hours of training per Wis. Stat. 450.035.
- The Intern must have a current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Technicians can vaccinate a person age 3+ per the ACIP schedule (including COVID vaccines authorized/approved by ACIP). Technicians cannot vaccinate anyone younger than age 3. All of the following must be met:

- The vaccine must be ordered by the pharmacist.
- The pharmacist must be readily and immediately available to the vaccinating technician.
- The technician must complete a 2-hour ACPE-approved vaccine training, including hands-on injection technique and the recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines.
- The technician must be certified (i.e., CPhT) with PTCB or NHA to administer vaccines.
- The technician must have a current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- The technician must be at least 18 years of age.

Recommendations

Children may get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines at the same time.

Each injection should be given in a different injection site, according to recommendations by age.

Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR)

Continue to use the WIR to record and track immunizations as required by state statute. If pharmacy staff want to sign up for no-cost WIR training, contact the WIR help desk at 608-266-9691 or email dhswirhelp@wisconsin.gov.

Update your pharmacy's profile on Vaccines.gov to include the minimum age field.

[Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) updated its settings to allow pharmacies to list the ages they vaccinate. This is a valuable feature to show the public what age groups you are currently vaccinating for COVID-19.

Update your pharmacy's profile to reflect your pharmacy's vaccination service offerings. You can update the age data fields manually or by using the file upload method. If updating a vaccinator profile manually, this information can be entered using two drop-down fields. There is one drop-down field for months and another drop-down field for years.

We appreciate all the work that you do. Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to keeping Wisconsinites safe during this time.

If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin at info@pswi.org.

