

Texas Providers Webinar Highlights – August 31, 2021

Read below for topics covered or view the [full video](#) for detailed information.

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

- On August 30th, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) **recommended the use of Pfizer-BioNTech (COMIRNATY) COVID-19 Vaccine for people 16 years of age and older.** The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is also recommended under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) as a 2-dose primary series for adolescents 12-15 years old, and as an additional (third) dose for people 12 years of age and older who are immunocompromised.
- During the August 30th meeting, ACIP discussed data on COVID-19 booster doses; however, **no votes or recommendations were made.** ACIP plans to meet again in mid-September to review the latest data on safety and immunogenicity of booster doses and continues to emphasize that **the top priority should be continued vaccination of unvaccinated individuals.**

COVID-19 Vaccine Product Updates

- When ordering a **full pack** (1170 doses) of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, your order will be shipped under **ultra-low temperatures from CDC**; when **ordering less than minimum pack size**, your order will be shipped under normal **freezer temperatures from Cold Chain Technologies.** For questions, email Covid19VacShipments@dshs.texas.gov

Gear Up for Flu Season: Increasing Flu Vaccine Accessibility in Your Practice

- Annual flu vaccination can keep you from getting sick from flu, reduces the risk of flu-associated hospitalization, and protects people around you, including those most vulnerable to serious flu illness.
- **Everyone six months and older should get a flu vaccine** every season, with rare exceptions. This includes children, adults, pregnant persons, and immunocompromised individuals. People over the age of 65 should get a high-dose flu shot, not a nasal spray vaccine.
- Consider **co-administering flu vaccine** with other recommended vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccine.
- Novel influenza A cases in humans, pediatric flu deaths, and outbreaks are all reportable in Texas. Read about DSHS's efforts relating to flu surveillance [here](#).

Provider Resources:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Management Resources \(training and support materials\)](#)
- [ImmTrac2 User Training Site](#)
- [ImmTrac2 Forms and Documents](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Enrollment Information](#)
- [CDC Clinical Considerations for or Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- DSHS COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Help Desk: (877) 835-7750, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; Email: COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov

Session Live Q&A:

- Why was Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine FDA-approved for individuals ages 16 years of age and older but not for individuals aged 12-15 years old?
- If a patient received Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at the beginning of the year but has not yet received the second dose, is it safe for them to receive Moderna COVID-19 vaccine as their second dose?
- Can I administer COVID-19 vaccine to a patient who had COVID-19 but no longer has symptoms and has passed the quarantine period?

