

## Washington State Statewide Standing Order for COVID-19 Vaccine

### FAQs for Health Care Providers

#### COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations

- **What national or association recommendations does the COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Order follow?** The standing order follows the:
  - [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\) COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#) for people ages 6 months to 18 years old
  - [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists \(ACOG\) COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#) for pregnant individuals
  - [American Academy of Family Physicians \(AAFP\) COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#) for people ages 19 years and older.

The standing order **does not** follow the CDC Immunization Schedule published 8/7/25.

- **Is there a summary of the COVID-19 schedules that I can use to vaccinate my patients?** Yes, please review the [DOH COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule](#).
- **Can patients who have an immunocompromised condition and are recommended to receive additional doses self-attest?** Yes, people can self-attest to being immunocompromised and receive additional COVID-19 vaccine doses.
- **FDA no longer authorizes Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine Emergency Use Authorization for children under 5 years of age. Can we continue to administer Pfizer to children under 5 years of age?** No, Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine should no longer be used for children under 5 years. Use Moderna Spikevax for children under 5 years even if a patient started the series with Pfizer vaccine.

#### Documentation, Eligibility, and Coverage

- **Do patients need to bring a copy of the standing order with them to show the pharmacist?** Washington State Department of Health (DOH) suggests that patients

bring a digital or printed copy of this standing order to the pharmacy, facility, or other health care provider administering the vaccine.

- **Do patients have to show identification or eligibility if using the standing order at a pharmacy?** Pharmacies usually request identification and insurance information when administering vaccinations. Pharmacists and other health care providers must screen patients for contraindications and precautions to the vaccine.
- **Will patients need documentation to prove that they are “at risk?”** No, patients do not need to provide documentation. The standing order authorizes the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to anyone 6 months and older. This includes whether they are at high risk of severe illness or pregnant individuals.
- **Is there a cost for the vaccine if patients use this standing order?** While the standing order provides access to the vaccine, the patient is responsible for the cost of the vaccine.
  - Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) continues to cover the COVID-19 vaccine for members, including children, adults, and pregnant people.
  - To confirm if a vaccine is covered, patients should contact their health plan administrator or the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.
  - See [COVID-19 Vaccine Insurance Coverage](#) for more details.

## Dispensing

**I’m a pharmacist. Whose name, NPI #, and address do I list as the prescribing physician on the prescription when using the standing order?** The standing order functions like an individual prescription written in the recipient’s name. You can list DOH’s State Health Officer for the standing order:

- Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD MPH  
NPI # 1225130941  
P.O. Box 47890, Olympia, WA 98504-7890
- **When does the standing order expire?** There is no expiration date on the standing order. The order will expire when Dr. Kwan-Gett revokes the order or ceases to act as the Secretary of Health’s designee.

## Liability

- **The standing order recommends that anyone over the age of 6 months can receive a COVID-19 vaccine. This doesn’t follow CDC’s recommendations and FDA licensure. What is my liability if I give this vaccine “off-label”?** Providers are covered by the same professional liability and malpractice standards that apply to

their other medical decisions. Prescribing off-label is a common practice in health care. Providers prescribe [1 in 5](#) medications off-label.

Health care professionals use clinical judgment to recommend what they believe is best for their patients. Providers may follow evidence-based guidelines from national associations. Examples include guidelines by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

- **Does this standing order protect me against liability for giving COVID-19 vaccine “off label”?** You are covered by the same professional liability and malpractice standards regardless of the standing order.

## References

- **What references did you use for the standing order?** The following references informed the standing order. But the standing order is in effect regardless of changes in these references.
  - Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States. CDC. May 1, 2025.
  - Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for Ages 18 Years or Younger, 2025. CDC. November 21, 2024.
  - Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule for Ages 19 Years or Younger, 2025. CDC. November 21, 2024.
  - COVID-19 Vaccine Considerations Contraindications and Precautions. CDC. May 1, 2025.
  - COVID-19 Vaccine Considerations for People with a History of Allergies or Allergic Reactions. CDC. May 1, 2025.
  - General Immunization Best Practices for Preventing and Managing Adverse Reactions. CDC. July 25, 2024.
- **Where can I find more resources?**
  - [AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf](#)
  - [COVID-19 Vaccination Considerations for Obstetric–Gynecologic Care | ACOG](#)
  - [Adult Immunization Schedule | AAFP](#)
  - [Checklist of Current Versions of U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance and Clinic Support Tools](#)
  - [Ask The Experts About Vaccines: COVID-19 | Immunize.org](#)
  - [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Health Care Providers | Washington State Department of Health](#)
  - <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-09/3481124-COVID19VaccineSchedule.pdf>