

Pediatric COVID Vaccine Playbook

The Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Playbook offers general guidance on assessments; data to assist planning; information to support the community driven plans; and toolkits for community partners, providers, vaccinators, and parents.

Goals of the Pediatric COVID Vaccine Playbook

1. Promote partnerships with parents so they have access to the information they need to guide and feel confident in their decision to vaccinate.
2. Identify ways to ensure all eligible Alaskans have access to COVID-19 vaccines.
3. Provide community planning teams and providers with the information, resources, and data needed to support these efforts.

Background

Since January of 2020, partners from local, state, tribal, and federal organizations have come together to address the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. As of November 2021, community transmission is high, hospitals are stretched past capacity, and the state has instituted crisis standards of care. As of November 2, 2021, there have been 708 Alaskan resident deaths due to COVID reported on the State's dashboard, and an unknown number of individuals suffering from long COVID.

While the percentage of children needing hospitalization is much lower than adults, the risks are not negligible. As of October 27, 2021, the State of Alaska Section of Epidemiology has reported 43 hospitalized children (31 of the hospitalizations were in children < 12 years of age, three were newborns < 1 month of age, and five children needed ICU care) and 16 cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C).

An excerpt from [State of Alaska Section of Epidemiology COVID-19 Update \(August 2021\)](#) outlines these MIS-C cases:

“Thirteen children hospitalized with multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) have been reported to the Alaska Section of Epidemiology since the beginning of the pandemic. MIS-C is defined by fever, laboratory evidence of inflammation, and evidence of clinically severe illness requiring hospitalization with multisystem organ involvement. The definition requires that the patient is <21 years of age with current or recent SARS-CoV-2 infection or exposure to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case within the 4 weeks prior to the onset of symptoms and no alternative plausible diagnoses...

Seven of the 13 children were female. Eight were aged 0–4 years at the time of admission, three were aged 5–10 years, and two were aged 11–20 years. Three children had a pre-existing condition. All children were admitted to the hospital, and eight were admitted to an intensive care unit. None of the children have died.”

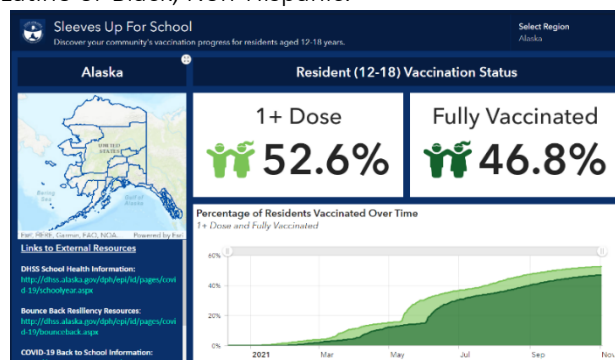
Nationally, [more than 140,000 children have lost a caregiver due to COVID-19](#) and as of October 17th, 2021, there have been [146 deaths in children aged 5-11 years](#), with children of some groups being disproportionately affected. An article in [Pediatrics](#) (Hillis, et al., 2021), looked at caregiver death from April 2020 through June of 2021, of children less than 18 years of age, and found racial and ethnic disparities. American Indian/ Alaska Native children were 4.5 times more likely to lose a parent or grandparent caregiver, Black children were 2.4 times more likely, and Hispanic children were 1.8 times more likely than White children. Of children 5-11 in the United States that have died, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native, Black Non-Hispanic, Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander and of those who identify with multiple racial groups disproportionately have died. Data subsets can be found [here](#) .

MIS-C continues to be a concerning and dangerous adverse event associated with COVID-19 infection. The [FDA states](#) that as of October 4, 2021:

- 5,217 MIS-C cases have been reported.
- 39% of MIS-C cases occurred in children aged 6-11.
- 61% of MIS-C cases occurred in children who identify as Hispanic/Latino or Black, Non-Hispanic.

COVID-19 has affected Alaskans of all ages both through illness and disruptions to their daily lives. However, vaccination against COVID-19 is a strong mitigation tool that provides protection against severe illness, helps Alaskans engage in the activities they enjoy, and keeps children in school.

[The Alaska Sleeves up for School Data Dashboard](#) reports vaccination information by borough census areas and will be updated to reflect the 5+ age group soon.



Logistical Considerations

Vaccine Codes

- **Product Description:** Tris-sucrose formula, 10 mcg/0.2 mL for ages 5 years to < 12 years
- **CVX Code:** 218
- **CVX Long Description:** SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19) vaccine, mRNA, spike protein, LNP, preservative free, 10 mcg/0.2 mL dose, tris-sucrose formulation
- **CVX Short Description:** COVID-19, mRNA, LNP-S, PF, 10 mcg/0.2 mL dose, tris-sucrose
- **NDC:** 59267-1055-04
- More information can be found on the [CDC's COVID-19 Vaccine Related Codes webpage](#).

Ancillary kit Pfizer Pediatric

Total doses: 100
Pfizer 100 Pediatric Doses required: 100

| Product | Product Description | Qty |
|------------------|------------------------------|-----|
| Needles | 25G x 1" | 70 |
| Syringes | 1ml LDV | 70 |
| Needles | 25G x 1" | 35 |
| Syringes | 1ml | 35 |
| Needles, Mixing | 21-25G x 1.5" | 20 |
| Syringes, Mixing | 3ml or 5ml | 20 |
| Alcohol Pads | Sterile, individually sealed | 210 |
| Vaccination Card | | 100 |
| Needle Info Card | | 1 |
| Face Shield | | 3 |
| Surgical Mask | | 6 |
| Diluent | 10 ml | 10 |

COVID-19 Order Threshold

CDC enacted a state-wide order threshold for COVID-19 vaccines to ensure that inventory that is currently in the field is utilized first. The threshold amounts consider administration data and current inventories throughout Alaska. Until VacTrAK inventories are more up to date and administered doses are reported to VacTrAK, the threshold is limiting the Pfizer orders we can process.

- Ensure your VacTrAK inventory and administration data are as accurate as possible.
 - Reconcile out wasted doses.
 - Reconcile out expired doses.
 - Verify that you have submitted all administered doses data to VacTrAK.
 - Verify that your administered doses connected to inventory.
- VacTrAK reports will show as COVID-19, mRNA, LNP-S, PF, 10 mcg/0.2 mL dose, tris-sucrose

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|----------------------------------|--|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-----|--|---|
| Pfizer-BioNTech | Pre-EUA | Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine | Tris-sucrose formula, 10 mcg/0.2 mL for ages 5 yrs to < 12 yrs | 59267-1055-2 | CARTON, 195 MULTI-DOSE VIALS | 59267-1055-1 | VIAL, 2 mL MULTI-DOSE VIAL | 218 | SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19) vaccine, mRNA, spike protein, LNP, preservative free, 10 mcg/0.2 mL dose, tris-sucrose formulation | COVID-19, mRNA, LNP-S, PF, 10 mcg/0.2 mL dose, tris-sucrose |
|-----------------|---------|----------------------------------|--|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-----|--|---|

[COVID-19 Vaccine codes and crosswalk]. (Oct 29,2021) <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/COVID-19-related-codes.html>

Contact vaccinedepot@alaska.gov if you have excess Pfizer vaccine doses that you cannot use and want to transfer to another provider.

Shipment Considerations

Pediatric COVID-19 vaccine shipments will arrive during the first week of November. There will be a mix of direct shipments and depot shipments during the initial roll out of the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

- All **direct shipment** orders will be in increments of 300 doses.
 - After the first week, the direct shipment minimum amount will decrease to 100 doses.
- All **depot orders** will be in increments of 100 doses.
 - After the first week, the depot order minimum amount will decrease to 10 doses.

Alaska will continue to receive weekly pediatric COVID-19 vaccine allocations. Providers can place orders for additional pediatric COVID-19 vaccine as needed. This initial pediatric COVID-19 vaccine allocation can be used for both 1st and 2nd doses. Providers must track their pediatric COVID-19 vaccine stock/administration timing and order 2nd doses as needed.

- **Shipping may be impacted during the Holiday Season:**
 - Vaccine shipments in November and December could experience delays due to:
 - *Heavier workload for FedEx, UPS, and USPS, Vaccine shipping may be limited, Weather delays*
 - Monitor your inventory closely, plan your vaccine orders carefully, and order early.

Pfizer Formulations

The Pfizer pediatric 5-11 vaccine was determined to be [90.7% effective against symptomatic COVID disease](#).

- There were no reports of significant adverse events related to the vaccine including myocarditis or anaphylaxis, although due to the size of the study we would not expect to see rare adverse events.
- Common mild reactions were less common in the 5-11 cohort compared to the 16-25 cohort.

The color orange is associated with pediatric COVID-19 formulations. These vaccine vials will need to be diluted with 1.3 mL sterile 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, USP prior to use. Only access the diluent vial once. There will be diluent remaining in the vial but discard it after one use and do not use it to dilute multiple vaccine vials.

The pediatric injection volume is 0.2mL. See [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers for Preparations](#) instructions.

More information on the Comirnaty and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine can be found [here](#).

Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine: 5 through 11 years formulation (orange cap)

- Formulation does NOT have expiration printed on the vial
- Each vial has the lot number and date of manufacture printed on the label
- Date on the label is NOT the expiration date

QR code on the Pfizer pediatric vaccine carton

- Links to the EUA but does not provide information on expiration dates

Expiration

- Pfizer does not have an expiration date look-up tool
- Pediatric vaccine (ages 5 – 11) has a 6-month expiration if held frozen at ULT
 - MFG date + 6 months = expiration date
 - This includes the month of manufacture – e.g., 8/2021 includes August. It does not start in September
- Expiration date listed in VacTrAK is the correct the expiration date

Planning & Implementation

Physical Layout

- Ensure everyone is safe by taking proper precautions and, if appropriate, having security available.
- Access or mobility needs
 - Bus line access
 - Walking distance to housing areas
 - Handicap accessibility
- COVID-19 vaccine can be provided with other vaccines, including flu
- Prep stations to prepare vaccinations out of the children's view
- Sharps containers near vaccine administration locations to reduce likelihood of accidents
 - Children may reach and grab at needles
- Consider breaking up vaccination areas based on age
 - Children may feel more comfortable being vaccinated around peers vs. older age groups
 - Anaphylaxis procedures may be age-based
 - Observation needs post-vaccination may differ by age
- Plan to offer enrichment activities post-vaccination, during the observation time period
- Private spaces to reduce anxiety, fear, and noise

Medical Services

- Children will continue to need screening for other childhood vaccines, and those vaccines will need to be coded according to their funding sources
- Let families know what they should bring to a vaccination visit (e.g., distraction and comfort items, immunization record/card, etc.)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines may be co-administered with other vaccines](#)
 - If multiple vaccines are administered at a single visit, administer each injection in a different *appropriate* site.
 - Label each syringe with the name and the dosage (amount) of the vaccine, lot number, the initials of the preparer, and the exact beyond-use time, if applicable.
 - Separate injection sites by 1 inch or more, if possible.
 - Administer the COVID-19 vaccines and vaccines that may be more likely to cause a local reaction in different limbs, if possible.
- Staff may need refresher training or Just in Time Training for childhood vaccinations techniques
 - Consider a skills check-off
- Be familiar with locating injection sites on children
 - The **deltoid muscle** is preferred for children aged 5+
 - Find the **acromion process**, which is the bony point at the end of the shoulder
 - The injection site will be below the bone and above the axillary fold/armpit, the thickest part of the muscle
 - The **vastus lateralis** can be used when there is insufficient tissue on the deltoid
 - The muscle is located between the **greater trochanter of the femur** and the **lateral femoral condyle**.
 - The injection site is in the middle third of the muscle.

- The [CDC Intramuscular Injection: Sites](#) video offers an overview of how to locate these two sites
- Longer service times are required for children
- Have additional staff available to aid vaccination services
- Prepare for adverse events
 - EpiPen Jr.
 - Child-sized cuffs
 - Syncope is common in pre-teens and teens
- State COVID-19 vaccines should be coded as a 07 for all ages of individuals receiving vaccine
 - PrepMod users- when offering a VFC vaccine (i.e., flu) clients may fall into more than one code. Use the code that reflects the other vaccine (VFC or AVAP).
- Vaccines are reimbursable through clients' insurance. For uninsured/underinsured clients, [vaccine services are reimbursable through HRSA](#)
- A documentation and consent template can be found on the State of Alaska DHSS website for vaccine providers as well as other materials and resources <https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/vaccineproviders.aspx>

Education and Communication

- Include extra time to talk with caregivers about the vaccine and answer questions they may have during any outreach and during vaccination clinics.
- Children and adolescents may be vaccinated with [appropriate consent and assent](#). Sites administering COVID-19 vaccines should follow current state/jurisdictional policies and practices for other routine vaccinations in this age group. [\(CDC\)](#)
- Have trusted providers available (e.g., the local family practice provider, pediatrician, local public health nurse, or community health aid) to speak with families.
- Provide resources relating to immunizations in advance of vaccine encounter
- Listen to questions with empathy
- Ask open-ended questions to explore concerns
- Ask permission to share information
- Help families identify their own reason to get vaccinated
- Facilitate a positive vaccination experience
- Ensure all communication is provided in multiple languages, as needed
- Resources to support parents, educators and kids and families during this pandemic including basic needs and mental health and resilience can be found on the [State of Alaska Bounce Back Resiliency page](#)
- [Start Strong 2021 In-Person Learning Guidelines and Resources](#) have links to several resources that may be useful including testing for schools, Sleeves up for school campaign materials, and a student toolkit among others.
 - Documents are accessible to all populations
 - Written at an appropriate literacy level
 - Translated materials/translation services
 - Pictures to help convey meaning
 - A flyer to share with parents can be found [here](#).



Family-Centered Care

- When appropriate, provide choices.
 - “Which arm would you like to get the vaccine in?”
- Clearly explain the process so there are no surprises.
 - “I’m just cleaning the area right now – no pokes yet.”
- Support the entire family and create opportunities for family units to get vaccinated.
 - Connect individuals/families with the resources they need if you are unable to provide them at your site.
 - Provide clear post-vaccination guidance for families and caregivers.
- Distraction is powerful in pain relief, both during vaccine administration and post-vaccination observation.
 - Hands-on
 - Playdough
 - Handheld games
 - Bubble machines
 - Buzzy device
 - Hands-off
 - Videos
 - Music
 - I Spy/Search & Find Posters
 - Belly Breathing
 - If you are hosting a POD-style vaccination event, consider go-bags containing distraction aids.
- Comfort positions
 - Positioning during immunizations can impact the overall experience.
 - Untreated pain can have long-term consequences
 - Preprocedural anxiety
 - Hyperalgesia
 - Needle fears
 - Avoidance of care
 - Simple, cost-effective, evidence-based, pain-relieving strategies are available. A [“3-P” approach](#) – combining pharmacologic, physical, and psychological factors – improves pain relief.
 - There is no one size fits all approach to vaccination pain/comfort management. Consider:
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder
 - Developmental delays
 - Childhood experiences with trauma
 - Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations
 - Please review the Comfort Techniques & Positions Toolkit on page 8 for helpful resources.

After Action Evaluation

- Staff meet and discuss what went well and what could be improved

Mass Vaccination Event Planning & Implementation

- Partnerships are critical to success. The mix of community partners may look different in different communities.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p><i>Partners may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local public health nurses ○ School districts ○ Local provider clinics ○ Local vaccine coalition or task force ○ Tribal health organizations | <p><i>Other partners to consider may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Faith-based organizations, spiritual leaders ○ Local businesses ○ Local municipality offices ○ EMS |
|--|---|
- Assess partner readiness
 - Capacity to provide pediatric vaccinations
- Consider targeted outreach to populations and areas that have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19
- Knowing the approximate population size of your target population can help identify needed resources



- The flow of a pediatric vaccinations event differs from those focusing on adults**
 - Greater amount of privacy
 - Kid-friendly environment (such as location at a school, posters, displays, activities geared towards children, safety)
 - Extra time
 - Adequate space to accommodate families
- Identify who the trusted messengers are within the community and work with them to share reliable information about COVID-19 vaccines and promote access to services**
 - Populations who have been disproportionately affected
 - Non-English-speaking and limited English fluency communities
- Identify high-risk communities, populations, and geographic areas or neighborhoods that have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19**
- Partner with agencies that work to support the pediatric population**
 - WIC
 - YMCA
 - After school programs
 - Sports
 - Head Start
 - Preschools
 - School
- Ensure inclusiveness of targeting all ages eligible (including teens, or those with disabilities or unique needs, elders)**
- Determine how your community is going to continue finding the unvaccinated and supporting them**
 - Referrals
 - Outbreaks of infection
 - Access and resource challenges
- Use local sites and dates where vaccine is available**
- Work with trusted messengers within the community to share information and engage community members**



- Access DHSS dashboard for local vaccination coverage rates
- Consider strategies to decrease confusion, if offering more than one vaccine type
 - Color coding at screening for large events to denote vaccine type
 - **Orange** 5 through < 12 years | Pfizer Pediatric
 - **Orange** printed fact sheets for:
 - [Healthcare Providers](#)
 - [Recipients and Caregivers](#)
 - **Purple** 12+ years | Pfizer Adult
 - **Purple** printed fact sheets for:
 - [Healthcare Providers](#)
 - [Recipients and Caregivers](#)
 - **Red** 18+ years | Moderna Full Dose
 - **Red** printed fact sheets for:
 - [Healthcare Providers](#)
 - [Recipients and Caregivers](#)
 - **Pink** 18+ years | Moderna Half-dose Booster
 - **Pink** printed fact sheets for:
 - [Healthcare Providers](#)
 - [Recipients and Caregivers](#)
 - **Dark Blue** 18+ years | Johnson & Johnson Janssen
 - **Dark Blue** printed fact sheets for:
 - [Healthcare Providers](#)
 - [Recipients and Caregivers](#)

| | Estimated Population Aged 5-11 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alaska | 73113 |
| Aleutians East Borough | 122 |
| Aleutians West Census Area | 344 |
| Anchorage Municipality | 27634 |
| Bethel Census Area | 2476 |
| Bristol Bay Borough | 77 |
| Chugach Census Area | 682 |
| Copper River Census Area | 275 |
| Denali Borough | 154 |
| Dillingham Census Area | 605 |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough | 9461 |
| Haines Borough | 212 |
| Hoonah-Angoon Census Area | 171 |
| Juneau City and Borough | 2772 |
| Kenai Peninsula Borough | 5275 |
| Ketchikan Gateway Borough | 1202 |
| Kodiak Island Borough | 1318 |
| Kusilvak Census Area | 1241 |
| Lake and Peninsula Borough | 171 |
| Matanuska-Susitna Borough | 12175 |
| Nome Census Area | 1317 |
| North Slope Borough | 1072 |
| Northwest Arctic Borough | 1074 |
| Petersburg Borough | 308 |
| Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area | 614 |
| Sitka City and Borough | 692 |
| Skagway Borough, Municipality | 92 |
| Southeast Fairbanks Census Area | 737 |
| Wrangell City and Borough | 229 |
| Yakutat City and Borough | 53 |
| Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area | 602 |

- Review CDC resources for planning off-site vaccination clinics
 - [What to Consider When Planning to Operate a COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic](#)
 - [Guidance for Planning Vaccination Clinics Held at Satellite, Temporary, or Off-Site Locations](#)
- On Friday 10/29/2021, from 12-1pm, there was a pop-up ECHO session that aimed to support Vaccine Providers in advance of the anticipated approval of the COVID-19 vaccine for ages 5-11.
 - This session offered demonstrations of techniques, shared what resources for providers are available, gave COVID-19 updates, and provide time for Q&A discussion with our hub team of experts. Videos, slides, and other resources shared during this ECHO will be posted in the Box shared folder.
 - Direct Box link: <https://chd.box.com/s/2m0njyn96qwox6pwki66hvgqgkvzy19>



Comfort Techniques & Positions Toolkit



[Children’s Minnesota | Comfort Position Guide](#)

An illustrated guide to preventing needle pain and discomfort for individuals aged 0-18.



[Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia | Comfort Positioning During Procedures](#)

Illustrations of comfort holds for newborns, infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.



[Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia | Comfort Positions for Preschooler Vaccination](#)

Video demonstration for comfort positions for preschoolers.



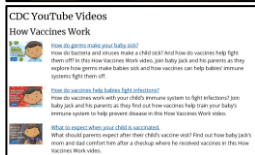
[British Columbia Children’s Hospital | Comfort Positions](#)

Illustrations with tips to achieving correct positioning.



[Buzzy | How to Use Buzzy](#)

Buzzy is one tool that can be used to help reduce needle pain and discomfort.



[Centers for Disease Control & Prevention | Social Media Products for Parents](#)

Select videos and pre-written social media posts that can be shared to spread information on the importance of and process of childhood vaccinations.



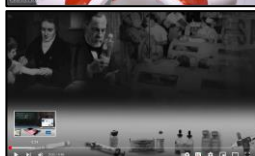
[Immunization Action Coalition | Skills Checklist for Vaccine Administration](#)

A self-assessment tool for staff who provide immunizations.



[Pediatrics | Digital Technology Distraction for Acute Pain in Children: A Meta-analysis](#)

Analysis of studies that have looked at the use of digital technology to distract children who are experiences acute pain and distress.



[Centers for Disease Control & Prevention | Comfort and Restrain Techniques](#)

Demonstrations of comfort and restraint techniques based on age and administration site.



[Meg Foundation | Homepage](#)

Numerous resources for preventing and relieving pain associated with needle pokes.



[Centers for Disease Control & Prevention | How to Hold Your Child During Vaccination](#)

Resource for guardians that outlines guidance on easing the vaccination process.

Comfort Holds: *School-Aged Children*

Side Sit



1. Sit your child on your thigh to the side of you.
2. Undress your child so that the arm to be vaccinated is exposed.
3. Place your child's other arm on your back or under your arm.
4. Hold your child's legs firmly between your thighs.
5. Hold the arm to be vaccinated with just enough force to prevent him or her from moving it.

Back to Tummy Sit



1. Sit your child on your lap, and lean his or her back against your chest.
2. Undress your child so that the arm to be vaccinated is exposed.
3. Place your child's other arm under your arm.
4. Hold the arm to be vaccinated with just enough force to prevent him or her from moving it.



[Recommended injections], (2017). <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/advice-and-prevention/vaccination/reducing-pain-and-anxiety-of-vaccination-children/>

Comfort Holds: *School-Aged Children*

Tummy to Tummy Sit



1. Sit your child on your lap facing you.
2. Undress your child so that the arm to be vaccinated is exposed.
3. Place your child's other arm on your back.
4. Turn your child's head away from the arm to be vaccinated.
5. Hold the arm to be vaccinated with just enough force to prevent him or her from moving it.

[Recommended injections], (2017). <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/advice-and-prevention/vaccination/reducing-pain-and-anxiety-of-vaccination-children/>

Independent



1. Some older children prefer seated positions, and while controlling the limb may not be indicated, comfort positions can still be beneficial.
2. Expose injection site on child's arm.
3. Sit or stand alongside your child's other arm, wrapping that arm around your back.
4. Using your two arms, embrace your child using your hands to hold hand and arm of extremity selected for injection.
5. Fainting following vaccinations can occur in preteens. For safety, remain seated for 15 minutes after vaccination.

