



05/03/2021

Dear Vaccine Provider Partners,

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) continues to work closely with statewide and local partners to ensure equitable allocation and administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. Together, we have made great strides with more than 31% of Illinoisans fully vaccinated. However, we know our work is far from complete. Our continued collaboration and shared strategic approach remain critical to ensuring education, outreach, and engagement among our most vulnerable populations.

We are encouraged to know that earlier this month Pfizer/BioNTech requested regulatory agencies expand emergency use of their COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents (12- to 15-year-olds). Click [here](#) for press release. As such, we are well into the planning efforts to ensure vaccine is available to these younger age groups upon FDA authorization.

This is where we rely on you, our partners, as the trusted community voices, to educate patients and caregivers regarding the efficacy of the vaccine and to serve as vaccine providers to the patients within your practice.

We are asking that you consider enrolling as a COVID-19 vaccine provider as soon as possible to assist in the fight against COVID-19 and to ensure vaccine is accessible to all eligible Illinoisans.

If you or your practice has already enrolled as a COVID-19 vaccine provider, we want to extend our sincere appreciation for your support and partnership.

For practices that have not yet enrolled as a COVID-19 provider the steps are quick and easy:

- **VFC Providers**

- You/your organization should already have access to the Illinois Comprehensive Automated Immunization Registry Exchange (I-CARE). As such, you can begin the process of enrollment as a COVID vaccine provider within I-CARE under the COVID tab/Enrollment.

- **Non-VFC Providers**

- If you do not already have I-CARE access, request access to I-CARE (this is a required first step before you can enroll as a COVID vaccine provider). The I-CARE enrollment packet can be found here: <https://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/forms/i-care-access-enrollment-packet.pdf>

- Once access has been granted, you/your organization can begin the process to enroll the site as a COVID vaccine provider within I-CARE under the COVID tab/Enrollment. Note: there are step-by-step COVID enrollment instructions located on the I-CARE home page announcements upon login.

The COVID enrollment submissions are reviewed within 24 hours and I-CARE enrollment takes approximately 7 business days to complete (provided all documentation is complete and submitted correctly).

If you/your organization has already started the COVID vaccine provider enrollment process, you can check the status of your COVID enrollment in I-CARE under the COVID tab or by emailing us at dph.immunizations@illinois.gov.

Please be assured that as good stewards of COVID-19 vaccine supply, we want to minimize wastage whenever possible. However, we understand the shift to smaller practices and/or targeted populations may inevitably increase the risk of unused doses. As such, we encourage you to collaborate within and across practices and with other partners in your local area to maximize getting shots into arms. Go to www.vaccines.gov to locate enrolled COVID providers in your local area.

See below for additional publications related to COVID-19 cases and clinical guidance among children and adolescents:

- [COVID-19 Trends Among Persons Aged 0–24 Years — United States, March 1–December 12, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 Trends Among School-Aged Children — United States, March 1–September 19, 2020](#)
- [Interim Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccination in Children and Adolescents](#)
- [Academic Pediatrics](#) - The COVID-19 special issue is now live and open access. The collection of commentaries and review articles from noted experts highlights effective strategies immunization providers and programs can use to help improve vaccination coverage among children and adolescents in the United States such as:
 - CDC’s Vaccinate with Confidence framework to build confidence in vaccines,
 - Increasing Vaccination Model focused on interventions that directly change behavior like reminder/recall,
 - Effective interventions at the practice level,
 - Framework to move implementation of strategies from research to practice,
 - Data infrastructure and efforts for a nationwide network and repository of immunization data,
 - Cost analysis of interventions, and
 - Lessons learned from the global arena highlighting the importance of schools.

For additional information regarding I-CARE, please visit: <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/immunization/icare>

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