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Maine Health Alert Network (HAN) System

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To: Health Care Providers
From: Dr. Isaac Benowitz, Chief Medical Officer & State Epidemiologist
Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations
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COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations

The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to provide COVID-19 immunization recommendations for 2025–2026 COVID-19 vaccine products (Pfizer, Moderna, and Novavax). Vaccination remains the best defense against severe COVID-19 disease.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved 2025–2026 COVID-19 vaccines for all people 65 years of age and older and people 6 months to 64 years of age at high risk for COVID-19 severe illness. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. CDC) lists many conditions and behaviors that place people at higher risk for COVID-19 (see [U.S. CDC: Underlying Conditions and the Higher Risk for Severe COVID-19](#)), including pregnancy or recent pregnancy.

Medical associations continue to recommend COVID-19 vaccination for most people. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends COVID-19 vaccine for all children 6 through 23 months, and for children 2 to 18 years based on risk factors (and provides a separate list of high-risk conditions). The American Academy of Family Physicians recommends COVID-19 vaccine for adults 18 years of age and older. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends COVID-19 vaccine for individuals contemplating pregnancy and in pregnant, recently pregnant, and lactating individuals.

Additional Information

- Individuals seeking COVID-19 vaccination should confirm coverage with their health plan.
- *Please note:* many providers order vaccines for children 6 months to 18 years of age through the Maine Immunization Program. The 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine is not yet available for ordering through this program and will not be until there is additional guidance following the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting scheduled for September 18–19, 2025.

- The Maine CDC will provide updated information to providers as we continue to adapt to the evolving landscape of vaccine access in the United States.

Recommendations

Vaccination remains a vital public health tool to prevent COVID-19 severe illness, hospitalization, and death. All eligible individuals should continue to receive routine COVID-19 vaccination as follows:

- All young children ages 6–23 months should get vaccinated against COVID-19.
- All children ages 2–18 years should get vaccinated with a single dose of age-appropriate 2025–2026 COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of vaccination status, if they:
 - are at high risk of severe COVID-19,
 - are residents of long-term care facilities or other congregate settings,
 - have never been vaccinated, or
 - have household contacts at high risk for severe COVID-19.
- Children not in one of the groups above, whose parent or guardian desires their protection from COVID-19, also should be offered a single dose of the updated vaccine.
- For further recommendations regarding persons with moderate to severe immunocompromise, please refer to the AAP's [2025 Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for Ages 18 Years or Younger](#).
- Pregnant individuals should get vaccinated against COVID-19, as should individuals who are lactating, recently pregnant, or contemplating pregnancy.
- All adults age 18 years and older should get vaccinated against COVID-19. It is especially important to get a COVID-19 vaccine if you are:
 - 65 years or older,
 - At increased risk for severe COVID-19 infection, or
 - Have never received a COVID-19 vaccine.

Additional 2025–2026 Respiratory Immunization Guidance

- Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for everyone age 6 months and older, with particular importance for those at higher risk of serious complications.
- Influenza, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines may be administered during the same visit. This allows completion of multiple vaccinations in a single appointment. If given at separate visits, there is no minimum interval between them. Patients should ensure they are up to date for the season.
- Maine CDC will provide further updates and guidance on the use of influenza, COVID-19, and RSV vaccine products in the annual “start of the respiratory season” webinar in early October.

Standing Orders

Maine CDC has provided a standing order authorizing pharmacists and other health care professionals to administer 2025–2026 COVID-19 vaccine to eligible individuals without the need for a patient-specific prescription.

[Maine CDC Standing Order for Administration of 2025–2026 COVID-19 Vaccines by Qualified Health Care Professionals](#)

For more Information

- [U.S. CDC: Benefits of Getting Vaccinated](#)
- [2025 Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for Ages 18 Years or Younger](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [American Academy of Family Physicians: AAFP Announces Fall Immunization Recommendations](#)
- [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists: COVID-19 Vaccination Considerations for Obstetric-Gynecologic Care](#)
- [Seasonal Flu Vaccine Basics | Influenza \(Flu\) | U.S. CDC](#)

- [Clinical Guidance for RSV Immunizations and Vaccines | RSV | U.S. CDC](#)