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Guidance on becoming a COVID-19 Vaccinator

There is general information on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website about the [COVID-19 Vaccination](#) program.¹ Within this information hub, there is a section detailing physician [requirements and support information](#).²

Summary:

1. Physicians must sign a CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement.
2. Physicians must adhere to prioritization guidelines as well as administrative fees. Use the following link for [updates from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services related to reimbursement](#).
3. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has [interim recommendations](#) on the use of Pfizer-BioNTech (COVID-19 Vaccine).³ Additionally, the ACIP has [interim recommendations](#) on the use of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine.⁴
4. Physicians must follow administration and reporting requirements
5. Physicians must follow [safe immunization practices](#)⁵
6. Physicians must comply with the [storage and handling](#) requirements of COVID-19 Vaccines.⁶
 - a. To access details on storage and handling of the Pfizer vaccine can be accessed using the [following link](#).⁷
 - i. It is necessary to use an ultra-cold freezer that is -80°C to -60°C (-112°F to -76°F) to store the vaccine until its expiration date.⁷
 - ii. Before mixing, the vaccine may be stored in the refrigerator between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 120 hours (5 days). After 120 hours (5 days), remove any remaining vials from the refrigerator and discard them following the manufacturer's and your jurisdiction's guidance on proper disposal.⁷
 - iii. For additional details on delivery, storage (vaccine and diluent), handling, and safety, please follow the above link.⁷
 - b. To access details on storage and handling of the Moderna vaccine can be accessed using the [following link](#).⁸
 - i. The vaccine may be stored in a freezer between -25°C and -15°C (-13°F and 5°F). The vaccine must be kept in the original carton and protected from light. Dry ice cannot be used for storage.⁸

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- ii. The vaccine may be stored in a refrigerator between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 30 days before vials are punctured. After 30 days, remove vials and discard them according to manufacturer and jurisdiction procedures.⁸
 1. The thawed vaccine cannot be refrozen
 2. Use a beyond-use date label to track storage of the vaccine.
 - iii. For additional details on delivery, storage, and handling, please follow the above link.⁸
7. Physicians must follow requirements for reporting to Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)
8. Data on COVID-19 Vaccine inventory must be reported to [VaccineFinder](#) or [IIS](#) to be reported by the jurisdiction to VaccineFinder. Additional information about specific programs is available [via the CDC website](#).
9. Physicians must follow [protocol to report data to the CDC](#).

There is also a toolkit available that includes information related to [communication](#) for staff and recipients of the vaccine.⁹ Additionally, there is information about the [storage and handling of COVID-19 Vaccines](#).⁶ Each [jurisdiction](#) will determine its operational guidance for the COVID-19 Vaccination program.¹⁰

If [education or training](#) is needed, there is information on courses about immunizations.

References

1. COVID-19 Vaccination. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>. Published 2020. Updated 12/20/2020. Accessed 12/22/2020.
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9. COVID-19 Vaccination Communication Toolkits. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/health-systems-communication-toolkit.html>. Updated 12/17/2020. Accessed 12/22/2020.
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