COVID-19 Update and Resources 10/2- 10/15

BREAKING NEWS

Leadership from the PA AAP has been meeting weekly with representatives from the PA Department of Health (DOH) in anticipation of the expected authorization of the COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 - 11.

Here's the latest update:

- FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee(VRBPAC) is scheduled to meet on October 26th to review the EUA application for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for children 5-11 years old.

- The ACIP is scheduled to meet on November 2nd and 3rd.

- States should be ready to vaccinate shortly there-after
    - Ordering for pediatric vaccines will begin once FDA issues the EUA

    - Vaccine administration will begin once the CDC Director makes a recommendation based on the ACIP recommendations.

- This will be a new product with new packaging and a new national drug code (NDC).

- **Current product for adults and adolescents should not be used in children.**

- The US government has procured enough vaccine to support vaccination of this population.

In anticipation, the PA DOH has implemented a strategy to ensure that shots are in arms immediately following the EUA; see below. Registered providers will receive info directly from the DOH.

Follow us on social for real-time updates on the vaccine roll-out.

Vaccine roll-out for children aged 5-11

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

AAP hosted a Town Hall to address the upcoming roll-out; [listen to the recording here](#).

| What is the timeline of the vaccine roll-out for children ages 5-11? | Registered providers will be able to place an order for the COVID-19 for children ages 5-11 with the PA DOH as soon as this **Monday, October 18**.

For the initial roll out / pre-orders, providers will need to place a minimum order of 300 doses (supply for both shots, so 150 kids). Subsequent weeks orders will reduce to 100 doses (10-dose vials, in packages of 10 vials - pending FDA authorization).

Shipments of the pre-ordered vaccine should arrive at provider sites by November 3, 2021.

Expect direct communication from the PA DOH to registered providers with further details on the pre-order process, which will occur through PA SIIS. |

| How to enroll to be a COVID-19 vaccine provider? | Find detailed enrollment instructions [here](#). Also, more information [here](#). |

| How to refrigerate this shipment? | The vaccine can be stored in a ULT freezer (-90ºC to -60oC) for 6 months, and in the **refrigerator** (2°C to 8°C) **for 10 weeks.** |

| How will dosing and storage differ from that of the current vaccine administered to individuals 12 years and older? | The 5-11 vaccine will come in minimum orders of **100 doses** (10 vials of 10 doses). The 5-11 vaccine will be 1/3 of the adult dose (10mcg), packaged as a new product with a new NDC code. The Pfizer vaccine for ages 12+ cannot be used in place of the 5-11 vaccine.
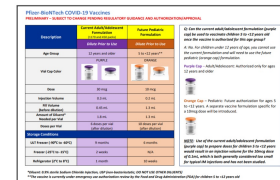
The containers will have orange caps, distinct from the purple caps of the vaccine currently available for 12 years and older. |

| How will this impact CPT coding? | See [Page #6](#) for the updated CPT codes. |

How can PA AAP assist your practice through the roll-out?

Please take a moment to complete the survey below, sharing your experience with the vaccine roll-out thus far.

COMPLETE

Updates from PA & AAP

- There were 66,832 new cases in Pennsylvania since our last update on 10/1, bringing the total case count to 1,502,124 (includes confirmed and probable cases) in all 67 counties in PA. Statewide percent positivity for the week Oct. 1 - 7 stood at 9.6%--a increase from 8.6%, recorded Sept. 17 - 23. View a breakdown of cases by region, county, gender, ethnicity, etc. here.

- Visit the COVID-19 web page on AAP.org to find updated resources that address clinical guidance, practice management resources, including tele-health and coding, educational resources for clinicians and families, data reports, a discussion board, details on AAP advocacy efforts, and more. For questions or comments related to the pandemic, email COVID-19@aap.org.

- As of October 7, more than 6 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, representing 16.3% of all cases in states reporting cases by age. Last week, over 200,000 new child COVID-19 cases were reported, accounting for 24.8% of reported weekly cases. Read the latest report. Also, find the AAP's latest report on Children and COVID-19 Vaccination Trends.

- New guidance from the AAP for pediatricians:
  - CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Pediatric Operational Planning Guide
  - Preliminary Overview of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccines
  - Effective COVID-19 Vaccine Conversations
  - Pediatricians can start preparing to vaccinate children against COVID-19
  - (Updated) AAP Coding during COVID-19 FAQ Sheet

- Updated guidance on HealthyChildren.org for your patients/families:
  - Long Haul COVID-19 in Children and Teens

AAP Interactive Town Hall Series on COVID-19: The AAP hosts a bi-weekly series of virtual town halls linking members with leading experts to discuss emerging issues related to caring for patients and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Click here to past sessions.
- Thursday, October 14's Town Hall addressed the upcoming roll-out; listen to the recording here

Please visit our website at www.paaap.org for more resources and information on COVID-19 for Pennsylvania pediatric providers. We are doing our best to maintain up-to-date information as it becomes available.

PA AAP (COVID-19)