



American Academy of Pediatrics
Orange County Chapter
INCORPORATED IN CALIFORNIA

Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine in Your Office

To all of our pediatricians, family practice physicians, and obstetric/gynecology providers:

AAP-Orange County Chapter (AAP-OC), Orange County Medical Association (OCMA), and the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) has teamed together to share this up-to-date information on how to get the COVID-19 vaccine in your office. It is up to us on the primary care front lines to vaccinate adolescents, pregnant mothers, and soon, younger children. Let's vaccinate Orange County together and save lives!

Q: Why should I get the COVID-19 vaccine in my office?

The best way to keep our patients and community safe from the COVID-19 virus is to get them protected with the COVID-19 vaccine. While it seems so easy for many patients to just go to a pharmacy or designated pod to get vaccinated, many patients feel more comfortable getting vaccinated in their doctor's office where they can ask questions from someone they trust and either get the vaccine right then or schedule to come back with other family members that day or later that week. Practices that have the vaccine in their office show a significant increase in the number of patients vaccinated compared with the number in the community. By having the vaccine in your office, you are able to stand behind your vaccine recommendations, normalize the vaccine, and make it convenient and comforting to patients to administer their vaccine in a place they know well and feel safe. In addition, for providers serving children under 12 years of age, once the vaccine is approved for this age group it is going to be up to us to vaccinate the majority of these children. Let's get ready now to keep our kids safe!

Q: How do I get the vaccine in my office?

You must submit an application to myCaVax and complete the enrollment process. On average, the application takes about 2 hours to complete. To qualify, you need to verify you have appropriate refrigerator or freezer storage (see below) and appropriate calibration measures. See [this information sheet](#) from OCHCA. The website link is <https://mycavax.cdph.ca.gov/s/>. If you have any questions about the application process, call the COVID-19 Provider Call Center at 833-502-1245 or email at covidcallcenter@cdph.ca.gov.

Q: How long does it take for my application to be reviewed and approved?

1-2 weeks. If you have submitted your application and have not heard back after 2 weeks, it is possible you are missing an application step. If you are not sure about the status of your application, contact the **COVID-19 Provider Call Center** at 833-502-1245 or by email at covidcallcenter@cdph.ca.gov, or send an email to Jody Nguyen at IAP@ochca.com to assist with questions.

Q: What is the deadline to get grant funding?

Practices can receive grant funding for up to \$11,000 per office site up to 5 offices for a total of \$55,000 if they complete their application by **September 10, 2021**. [Grant Funding FAQ](#).

Q: Once I have the vaccine in my office can I just administer the vaccine to my patients, or do I then become a clinic site for anyone?

Most providers choose to vaccinate just their patients or their patients and their family members. You do NOT need to open your clinic to non-patients. You just need to make sure that all doses administered are reported to the state within 24 hours. There are 2 ways to do this:

1. If your electronic medical record system uploads to CAIR-2, you simply electronically chart per usual for your patients.
2. If your electronic record system does NOT upload to CAIR-2, you can set up as a "closed clinic" on My Turn. For onboarding support (those in the process of onboarding), email myturnonboarding@cdph.ca.gov.

For technical support: MyTurn.Clinic.HD@Accenture.com or call 833-502-1245 ext. 4 from Monday-Friday 7AM-7PM, Saturday and Sunday 8AM-1PM. In this scenario, your patients need to register, search for your clinic, and schedule for an appointment in My Turn. As a provider in My Turn, you will need to set up the clinic in My Turn that is closed to the public but open to your patients only using a QR code or a text link.

Q: Do I get paid to administer the vaccine?

Yes, you can bill for vaccine administration fees just like any vaccine in your office. You do not bill for the vaccine itself, however. Learn how to bill for COVID-19 vaccine administration.

Q: How is the COVID-19 vaccine stored? How do I know if I have appropriate storage?

You do NOT need an ultra-low freezer for the mRNA vaccines. For the Pfizer vaccine, you can store it in a regular freezer for up to 2 weeks, and then a refrigerator for up to 30 days, totaling 6 weeks of storage in your office if needed. See [Pfizer](#) and [Moderna](#) documents on proper storage.

Q: How many vials will I receive? Can I order in small quantities?

Currently, the Orange County Health Care Agency is temporarily serving as the vaccine "hub" to redistribute small order vaccines for small practices that can't meet the minimum order amount of 1,170 doses of Pfizer vaccine. The providers will need to pick up the vaccine from OCHCA. However, starting in early September 2021, you will be able to request small orders for Pfizer vaccine only and get small shipments directly to your office.

Q: Once I puncture a vial, how long does it last?

Punctured Pfizer vaccines last 6 hours and Moderna vaccines last 12 hours at room temperature, between 2-25 degrees Celsius (36-77 degrees Fahrenheit).

Q: What if I can't use all the doses in a vial in that period of time?

Right now, we are fortunate to have plenty of vaccine for our U.S. residents, but the number of people being vaccinated has dropped. If you can vaccinate even one person, it is worth opening the vial.

Q: I would like to have a designated evening or weekend vaccine clinic for my patients. How do I set that up?

There are many offices who have successfully implemented efficient vaccine workflows and we can put you in direct contact with those practices for tips and tricks on running a successful vaccine clinic. Please visit the [AAP-Orange County Chapter website](#) for patient hand-outs and workflow suggestions for administering the COVID-19 vaccine. You can also contact Jamie McDonald (jamie@aap-oc.org) at AAP-OC for more information or to be connected to talk directly to a clinic who is already doing this successfully.

Q: Are there other options for vaccine clinics where I don't have to do the application process?

Yes, OCHCA can help you host a COVID-19 vaccine clinic. For more information visit <https://occovid19.ochcahealthinfo.com>.

RESOURCES

CalVax Application: <https://mycavax.cdph.ca.gov/sl/>

Grant Funding FAQ:

<http://www.phcdocs.org/Portals/0/assets/docs/calvaxgrant/CalVaxGrantFAQ.pdf?ver=202108-09-084211-553>

Grant Funding Guidelines:

<http://www.phcdocs.org/Portals/0/assets/docs/calvaxgrant/CalVaxGrantGuidelines.pdf?ver=2021-08-09-084211-553>

COVID-19 Vaccine Reimbursement

https://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsubdoco/newsroom/newsroom_30717_72.aspx

Application Questions: COVID-19 Provider Call Center 833-502-1245 email covidcallcenter@cdph.ca.gov

OCHCA contact: E-mail Jody Nguyen at IAP@ochca.com

Challenges with MyCalVax? You can send your concerns directly here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=OT154DKJbUmxKRmO3ZFv6zSYsTFQZiJGvmmEsk0Ys7tUM0IWSzNXUE9FQzlwNUE2VIRHNTIFUDRSVi4u>

AAP-Orange County Chapter
5000 Campus Drive Newport Beach, CA 92660
949-752-2787 • www.aap-oc.org

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