



# Vaccine Roadmap

## 2022

**Prioritizing Vaccines**  
in Healthcare's New Normal



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## INTRODUCTION

# Prioritizing Vaccines in Healthcare's New Normal

Little did we know when we were working on last year's *Vaccine Roadmap* that COVID-19 would still be such a dominant force in our lives in 2022—**not to mention its ongoing effect on healthcare.**

With in-person physician visits still well below pre-pandemic levels, patients continue to fall behind on their routine vaccinations. With that in mind, **VaxCare is joining the healthcare community in calling for a full-court press on getting patients into practices to get their immunizations.**

We've created this guide to help you and your practice get up to speed with the **changes to the immunization schedule**, as well as the ever-evolving **state of vaccines in healthcare**, so you can keep your patients safe and healthy in 2022 and beyond.

Yours in Health,

**VaxCare**

# What's New on the Vaccine Schedule



**There's a lot happening in vaccines.** Here's an overview of the changes and additions you need to know about in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) [2022 immunization schedule.](#)

## Updated Recommendations for Pneumococcal Vaccine for Adults

In October 2021, ACIP approved two new conjugate vaccines for pneumococcal diseases: **PCV15 (Vaxneuvance/Merck)** and **PCV20 (Pevnar 20/Pfizer)**.

“We were already giving PCV13 followed by PPSV23, and now we have new kids on the block,” says Dr. Wanda Filer, chief medical director for VaxCare. “**The new recommendation is PCV15 plus PPSV23, or PCV20 alone**, which applies to both age- or risk-based decision making. You can do just the PCV20 and get a strong response against the 20 serotypes in the vaccine, but three strains will still not be covered.”



Another major update: **These recommendations apply uniformly across age- and risk-based populations**, which encompass immunocompromised adults 19–64, adults 19–64 with certain underlying medical conditions or other risk factors, and all adults 65 and older. (See Jan. 28, 2022’s [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) for more details on the new vaccines and their clinical recommendations.) While Pevnar13 is approved for children and adults, the new vaccines are for adults only—at least until pediatric studies are reported, possibly within a year.

## Updated Recommendations for Recombinant Zoster Vaccine

The ACIP voted to recommend **two doses of recombinant zoster vaccine** (Shingrix: GlaxoSmithKline/GSK) for **adults age 19 and older who are or will be immunodeficient or immunosuppressed due to disease or therapy**. For immunocompetent adults, Shingrix is intended to be administered in two doses, two to six months apart. However, for adults who are or will be immunodeficient or immunosuppressed due to known disease or therapy and who would benefit from a shorter vaccination schedule, the second dose can be administered one to two months after the first dose.

## Updated Recommendations for Hepatitis B Vaccine

The ACIP now recommends that the **hepatitis B vaccine be given to all adults through age 59 and adults age 60 and older with any risk factors for HBV infection**. This update

serves as a natural extension of the existing routine childhood recommendations and helps to address the **20,700 acute hepatitis B infections in the U.S. every year**. It's also in keeping with the goal of the CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis to **reduce HBV infections by 90% and HBV-related deaths by 65% by 2030**.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Approved for Ages 5–17

In November 2021, the ACIP unanimously voted to recommend the **Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children 5–11 years of age** under the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). For the 5–11 group, the recommendation is a 10 microgram dose of Pfizer; for the 12–17 group, it's the same as for adults, 30 micrograms. Check the CDC for recommended schedules and products and find more information at the end of this guide.



### We're here to help.

Keeping up with the latest vaccines—let alone coding them—is a challenge for even the most efficiently run practices. VaxCare takes that burden off healthcare staff by **making sure your fridge is stocked with all the vaccines your patients need, while handling coding and billing with just one scan**.

[Schedule your on-demand demo to learn more.](#)

## 2022: Don't Forget the Flu

The CDC reported that as of Dec. 11, 2021, **vaccination rates were 5.9% lower for children (6 months to 17 years) this flu season compared with the previous year**. Only 47.7% of adults had received a flu vaccine by mid-December 2021, a significant decrease from 2020.

"We're already seeing significant influenza transmissions," says Joseph Bocchini, M.D., FAAP, Director of the Willis-Knighton Health System Children's Services and the Department of Pediatrics at Tulane University. "And the infections are more severe. **The best way to fight back is to get people into your practice to get their flu vaccines—no matter how late in the season it is.** And because flu comes into a community through children, it's important to focus on immunizing kids under 18 to protect everyone." **As a reminder: The CDC has approved co-administration of the flu vaccine with COVID-19 vaccine (and any other vaccine, for that matter).** +

# Vaccine Catch-Up Is the #1 Priority



**As we reported last year, the percentage of patients behind on their immunizations is troublingly high.**

To help catch up, many major healthcare associations are urging physicians to be proactive in communicating to their patients that it's not just critical for their own health, but the health of our country as well.



**“Over the past year, COVID-19 has really become the focal point of vaccinations,”** says L.J. Tan, MS, Ph.D., chief strategy officer for [Immunize.org](https://immunize.org) (formerly Immunization Action Coalition). **“But our organization wants to make sure providers are acutely aware that now is the time to check their patients’ vaccine records at every single visit, so they can be part of the solution.** Patients trust their healthcare providers, so if providers make it a priority, it will be a priority for patients, too.”

The provider “stamp of approval” is especially important for getting more children (ages 5–17) vaccinated for COVID-19.

**“People are beginning to realize that there might have been better uptake and less hesitancy had the COVID-19 vaccine gotten into physician practices more quickly,”** says Dr. Filer. “Physicians know their patients’ medical histories. We can have real conversations with them as well as their families. And to top it off, we’re comfortable giving an injection to a scared and squirmy 5-year-old.”

## Boosting Your Practice’s Vaccine Program

It’s clear that primary care can play a significant role in keeping our communities vaccinated. And despite the misinformation-fueled vaccine hesitancy that’s gripped the country as of late, **patients and parents are still more likely to trust their doctor than any other source.** Clinicians are therefore in the perfect position to make vaccines a routine part of every visit—even if it’s only to congratulate patients on being up to date.



### Increase Your Vaccinations with VaxCare

A study by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) reported a **35.4% increase in flu vaccinations** in practices after joining VaxCare. Get in touch to hear how we can help you better protect your patients.  
[info@vaxcare.com](mailto:info@vaxcare.com) / +1 (888) 829-8550

**Studies show that patients are much likelier to get immunized if their physicians recommend it.** So the more you talk to patients about your support of vaccines—and why you feel that way—the more likely they are to get their shots.



## GETTING RATES BACK ON TRACK

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Here are tips for raising vaccination rates in your patient population:

- **Successful vaccine programs start at the top.** Make sure everyone in your practice understands your commitment to making vaccines an important and regular part of each patient visit.
- **Create a pro-vaccine atmosphere in your office** with signs, information, and positive support of vaccines from every staff member. A single negative patient interaction can inspire hesitancy—or worse, a missed opportunity to protect them from vaccine-preventable illnesses.
- **Appoint a dedicated “vaccine champion” in your practice** if you don’t already have one. This person should know the ins and outs of your program so they’re ready to help whenever there’s an issue.
- **Put a standing order in place in your practice,** so any appropriately credentialed and properly trained provider can administer any ACIP-approved vaccine. This not only frees up your advanced clinical teams, it also helps get your entire office on board.

## Making It Easier for Your Patients to Get Vaccinated

COVID-19 has made telehealth visits much more common, but you can’t give a vaccine through a screen (yet). That said, **video consultations are still a great opportunity to set an in-person appointment** for a patient’s recommended vaccinations and to remind them of the importance of vaccines in their overall care.

Another way to boost vaccinations in your community is to create an **immunization clinic**—inside or outside of your office—with extended hours to accommodate working families.



*By using the Mobile Hub at their vaccination clinics, the Chester County Health Department was able to move several staff members from data entry to delivering shots. With this efficiency they were able to meet their goal of vaccinating over 50,000 residents across their state.*

## GETTING RATES BACK ON TRACK

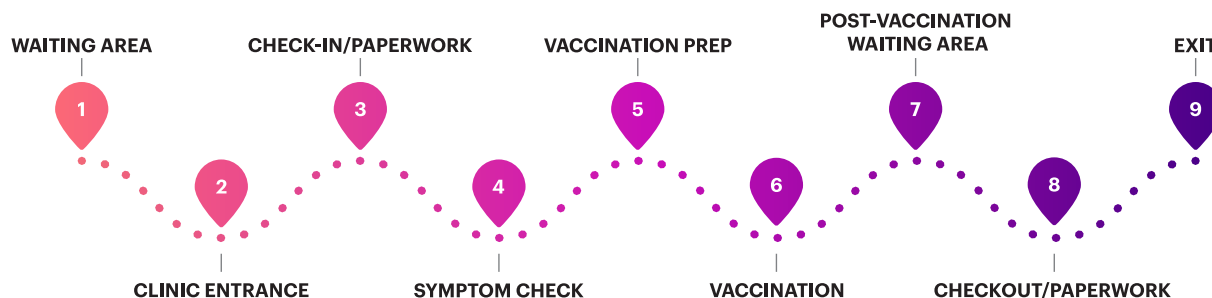
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Here are some tips to make sure your clinic runs smoothly:

- Drive-through or walk-up clinics are great for busy folks, and our **Mobile Hub** keeps the workflow streamlined at off-site locations.
- You'll want your vaccines nearby and properly stored, so you may need **an outside power source for your refrigerator**. No access to electricity? A generator could be the answer.
- **Set up a one-way clinic flow** with discreet entrances and exits. This will help keep patients moving during busy hours and maintain efficiency throughout.
- **Preregister your patients.** Many practices cite this as the most important step to running a successful clinic. Even with the inevitable no-shows, this bit of pre-work helps you better prepare for staffing, supplies, and other logistics.

For more detailed help, see our [Vaccination Clinic Guide](#) or go to [Immunize.org's vaccination clinic checklist](#) or the [CDC's checklist for off-site immunizations](#). +

### EXAMPLE CLINIC FLOW



## INTRODUCING VAXCARE

# Less Paperwork. More Shots. Better Patient Health.

**VaxCare is the first end-to-end solution to truly simplify your vaccine program**, consolidating the entire ecosystem into a single, easy-to-use touchpoint. Our automated buy & bill platform is **used by over 7,000 doctors and healthcare systems nationwide**, generating more money for practices, more time with patients, and higher community immunization rates.

### BENEFITS TO YOUR PRACTICE:

#### 01 No More Vaccine Purchasing. Ever.

**We stock your refrigerator with an unlimited supply of vaccines from every major manufacturer at no cost**, automatically replenishing when the supply gets low.

#### 02 Save Up to 30 Minutes of Staff Time Per Day.

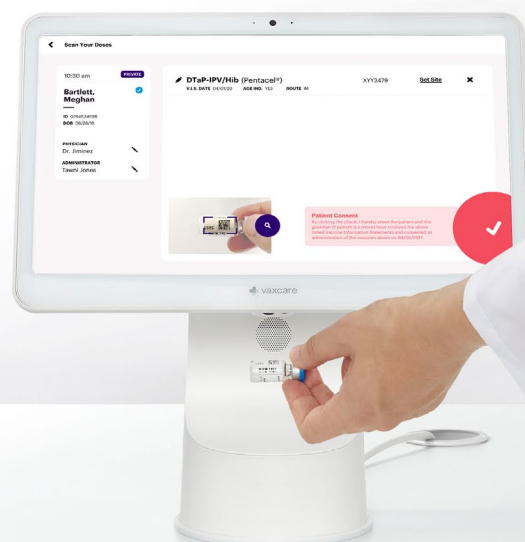
**VaxCare fully integrates with all major EHRs** and automatically records, tracks, and bills your vaccinations, eliminating manual entry and costly errors.

#### 03 No More Lost Doses, Lost Revenue.

**VaxCare is a closed-loop system, tracking your vaccines from ordering to administration to reimbursement**, ensuring that each dose goes to the intended patient, and that you're paid every time.

**We make sure implementation is as painless as can be—our team will join you on-site to support and onboard your staff.** If you're not satisfied with VaxCare, you can opt out with just 30 days notice.

**For more information, reach us at: +1 (888) 829-8550 or [www.vaxcare.com](http://www.vaxcare.com)**



# COVID Vaccines: Where We Are

As we're writing this, the COVID-19 omicron variant is still raging across the country. (By the time you read this, there may even be another variant on the loose.) The bottom line remains: **The COVID-19 vaccines continue to be the #1 most effective response to this deadly pandemic.** Here's the current state of COVID-19 vaccines:

## 2-Dose Versions

**Pfizer-BioNTech (mRNA)**  
**Moderna (mRNA)**

## 1-Dose Version

**Johnson & Johnson**  
**(viral vector)**

## Boosters

**Pfizer-BioNTech**  
**Moderna**

(Patients 16 and over can mix and match any of the 1- or 2-dose vaccines above.)

## Which Vaccine Is Best?

After reviewing growing safety and efficacy data, on Dec. 16, 2021, **the CDC recommended mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) over J&J/Janssen.** However, the J&J/Janssen vaccine is still a good option for those unable to receive mRNA COVID vaccines—and it's certainly preferable to no vaccine at all.

Individuals who received the J&J/Janssen vaccine are encouraged to receive a booster shot of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) if possible after two months to ensure maximum protection from COVID-19 and its variants.

## A Big (Positive) Update on the COVID-19 Vaccine

Since last year, Pfizer has submitted data to the FDA to support storage of undiluted, thawed vials of its COVID-19 vaccine for up to one month at refrigerator temperatures. **This means that any practice with a regular vaccine fridge can be a COVID-19 vaccine provider.**

The ACIP urges practices to reach out to their state or local immunization program to register to become a COVID-19 vaccine provider to help ensure a smooth and quick rollout of the vaccine to all children.

For more information on signing up to be a provider, go to [www.cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or [www.immunize.org](https://www.immunize.org) to learn how to enroll.



### More Good COVID-19 Vaccine News

In May 2021, **the CDC officially approved co-administration of the COVID-19 vaccine with any other vaccines on the schedule, including flu,** for the overwhelming majority of your patients—both adults and kids. Now, every appointment is an opportunity to protect your patients from COVID-19 and other diseases.

## How to Code for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration

COVID-19 vaccines, including booster shots, are still being offered for free courtesy of the U.S. government, but **practices can still be reimbursed \$40 for administering each dose.** Along with individual codes for each COVID-19 vaccine, there is an individual code for the administration of the first and second doses of each vaccine. That means the CPT code for administration of the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine is distinct from the CPT code for administration of the first dose of the Moderna vaccine and is also distinct from the CPT code for administration of the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

Here are two great resources for the latest information on reimbursements, coding, and rates:

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services ([www.cms.gov](https://www.cms.gov))
- Health Resources & Services Administration ([www.hrsa.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov)) +

