VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

STATEWIDE STANDING ORDER AUTHORIZING DISPENSING AND ADMINISTERING OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE TO ADULTS 18+ UNDER VIRGINIA CODE 54.1-3408(I)

Date Issued: September 10, 2025

Purpose: This order is intended to supplement the authority that currently exists under state and federal law for pharmacists and pharmacy interns to administer U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved COVID-19 vaccines for 2025-2026 to people 18 years of age and over. This statewide standing order offers a mechanism to facilitate accessibility of COVID-19 vaccines that can lower the risk of severe illness, hospitalization or death caused by SARS-CoV2 virus by authorizing qualified and trained pharmacy personnel to administer certain vaccines as designated by the Commissioner of Health.

This order authorizes:

- Pharmacists actively licensed in Virginia who are in good standing to practice in Virginia per the Virginia Board of Pharmacy to dispense and administer FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccines;
- Pharmacy interns who have satisfied the training requirements of the PREP Act acting under the supervision of a pharmacist,

Eligible providers shall administer the COVID-19 vaccine in accordance with Virginia Code §54.1-3408 (I) as described below.

This order is effective on the date of prescriber signature and will expire when revoked or ceased, whichever comes sooner. This order shall be reviewed annually against best practices and may be revised or updated if new information about COVID-19 vaccines necessitates it.

The site must maintain a copy of the standing order if administering vaccine pursuant to the order. Please call the Office of the Commissioner at (804) 864-7001 with questions about the standing order.

Eligible Vaccine Recipients:

The following COVID-19 vaccines may be administered via intramuscular injection to eligible persons aged 18 years and older.

Product Selection, Criteria and Directions for Use in Adults*:

2025-2026 Formula Product Name	Age	1st dose	2nd dose	
		Injection Volume	Timing between doses	Injection Volume
MNEXSPIKE (COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA) injectable suspension	18-64 with at least one underlying condition 65 years of age and older	0.2 mL	For individuals previously vaccinated with any COVID-19 vaccine, administer the dose of MNEXSPIKE at least 3 months after the last dose of COVID-19 vaccine	0.2 mL
SPIKEVAX (COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA) injectable suspension	18-64 with at least one underlying condition 65 years of age and older	0.5 mL	For individuals previously vaccinated with any COVID-19 vaccine, administer the dose ≥ 2 months after the last dose of COVID-19 vaccine	0.5 mL
COMIRNATY (COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA) 30 mcg/0.3 mL injectable suspension prefilled syringe (packaging has gray cap/gray border)	18-64 with at least one underlying condition 65 years of age and older	0.3 mL	For individuals previously vaccinated with any COVID-19 vaccine, administer the dose at least 2 months after the last dose of COVID-19 vaccine	0.3 mL
NUVAXOVID (COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted) injectable suspension	18-64 with at least one underlying condition 65 years of age and older	0.5 mL	For individuals previously vaccinated with any COVID-19 vaccine, administer the dose of NUVAXOVID at least 2 months after the last dose of COVID-19 vaccine	0.5 mL

**** Please note that the FDA indications for some of these products include pediatric populations. This standing order is limited to individuals 18 years and older. Please refer to manufacturer package inserts or the U.S. FDA website for additional information.***

Additional Criteria:

- COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may be administered at the same time. If multiple vaccines are administered at a single visit, administer each injection in a different injection site. For individuals 18 years and older, the deltoid muscle can be used for more than one intramuscular injection.
    - Label each syringe with the name and the dosage (amount) of the vaccine, lot number, the initials of the preparer, and the exact beyond-use time, if applicable.
    - Separate injection sites by 1 inch or more, if possible.
    - Administer the COVID-19 vaccines and vaccines that may be more likely to cause a local reaction (e.g., tetanus-toxoid-containing and adjuvanted vaccines) in different limbs, if possible.

Procedures:

- Screen for any vaccine precautions and contraindications using an appropriate pre-vaccine questionnaire or Table 3 in the CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States **before** administering the vaccine.
- Provide the vaccine recipient with a copy of the Information for Recipients and Caregivers.
- Obtain informed consent of the patient or parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis.
- Educate about where, how, and when to obtain the additional COVID-19 vaccination as indicated.
- Appropriate medical treatment and clinical staff able to manage immediate allergic reactions must be immediately available in the event an acute anaphylactic reaction occurs following administration of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Ensure pharmacist accessibility, as defined by the PREP Act, to provide medication supervision of the vaccination site/service, to assess and evaluate individuals who present with precautions to vaccination, and to answer questions or address problems with carrying out this standing order. This may be telephone or virtual accessibility.

Contraindications:

Do not administer any of the COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA vaccines (MNEXSPIKE, SPIKEVAX, or COMIRNATY) to anyone with a known history of an immediate or severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to any component of mRNA vaccine or to anyone who had a reaction to a previous dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

Do not administer the COVID-19 Vaccine Adjuvanted (NUVAXOVID) to anyone with a known history of an immediate or severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to any component of NUVAXOVID or to anyone who had a severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) following a previous dose of a Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted.

Precautions:

- History of severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to any other vaccine or injectable therapy.
- Self-reported moderate to severe acute illness.
- Clinical trials and post marketing data from use of authorized or approved mRNA/Adjuvanted COVID-19 vaccines have demonstrated increased risks of myocarditis and pericarditis following vaccination.
- Syncope (fainting) may occur in association with administration of injectable vaccines. Procedures should be in place to avoid injury from fainting.

Post-vaccination Observation and Emergency Protocol:

- In accordance with ACIP's General Best Practices Guidance for Immunization, all individuals receiving a vaccine should be observed for at least 15 minutes following vaccination. Persons with a history of anaphylaxis should be observed for 30 minutes.
- Vaccine providers shall be prepared to manage medical emergencies by having a written emergency medical protocol with policies and procedures, as well as appropriate equipment and medications (e.g. epinephrine), in places where vaccines are provided according to CDC

Clinical Considerations for Managing Anaphylaxis (https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/managing-anaphylaxis). Pharmacists may administer epinephrine in accordance with the Board of Pharmacy (BOP) statewide protocol (https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/Boards/Pharmacy/PractitionerResources/StatewideProtocols/).

- Report any vaccine administration errors (whether or not associated with an adverse event), serious adverse events (irrespective of attribution to vaccination), cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in children and adults, or cases of COVID-19 that result in hospitalization or death following administration of the vaccine to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) via the VAERS online reporting tool (https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html) or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

Reporting and Follow-Up:

- Record COVID-19 vaccination in the pharmacy or medical record within 24 hours and ensure all required data elements are reported to the Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS) within 7 days of vaccine administration.
- Vaccine recipients and/or their parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis must be provided with a personal vaccine record indicating the date of vaccination, product name/manufacturer, lot number, name/location of administering pharmacy, and when the recipient needs to return for the second dose of any of the COVID-19 Vaccines, if indicated.
- Additional doses of the vaccine, if indicated, must be scheduled before the individual leaves the site.

Prescriber: Karen Shelton MD **Date:** 09/10/2025

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