

Washington State Statewide Standing Order for COVID-19 Vaccine

FAQs for the Public

- **What is a standing order?** [Standing orders](#) are prescriptions approved by a health care provider. They allow patients to receive certain tests, vaccines, clinical services, or other health care without needing their own doctor to write a prescription first. Standing orders make care easier to access. But they are not directives and do not require anyone to receive care.
- **What does the COVID-19 standing order do for me?** Under the State Health Officer, this order allows qualified health care professionals such as physicians, pharmacists, nurses, medical assistants, etc. to vaccinate individuals 6 months and older. This includes pregnant people who do not have contraindications to the vaccine.
- **What is DOH's recommendation under this standing order?** The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) recommends that everyone age 6 months and older receive the COVID-19 vaccine to protect against severe illness. This standing order covers everyone in that age group including pregnant people. It aligns with guidance from trusted national medical organizations such as the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), [the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology](#), and [the American Academy of Family Physicians](#).
- **How do I use a standing order? Do I need to bring a copy of the standing order with me to get vaccinated?** No, but the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) recommends bringing a digital or printed copy of this standing order to your pharmacy or medical office.
- **Who can use the standing order to get a COVID-19 vaccine?** All individuals 6 months and older who do not have contraindications to the COVID-19 vaccine. This includes pregnant people.

- **Are pharmacies required to provide COVID-19 vaccines under the standing order?** Yes, pharmacies are required by state law to provide COVID-19 vaccines under the standing order, in the same way they are required to fill any other valid prescription. State law includes some exceptions to a pharmacy's duty to fill a prescription:
 - If the pharmacy has been unable to stock the medicine
 - Does not have the expertise to administer the medicine
 - Does not receive its usual and customary or contracted payment
- **What if I get denied even with this standing order?** Please be patient with pharmacies, health care professionals and their staff as they adjust to changing guidelines. You can call ahead or try another pharmacy or medical office. If needed, you can file a complaint. The complaint should include:
 - **Where** the denial took place (the name and physical location of the pharmacy)
 - **When** the denial took place (the approximate date and time)
 - **Why** (if known) the health professional refused to provide the vaccine

Where to file a complaint:

- **Medical doctors (MDs) and physician assistants (PAs):** [File a Complaint with the Washington Medical Commission](#)
 - **Nursing professionals:** [File a Complaint with the Washington State Board of Nursing](#)
 - **Pharmacy:** Email the Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission at hsqacomplaintintake@doh.wa.gov or fill out the Health Systems Quality Assurance [complaint intake form](#). You can also email the Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission at wspqac@doh.wa.gov if you have additional questions.
 - **All other credentialed health professionals:** Use the [Provider Credential Search](#) to find the correct licensing board and file a complaint.
- **Do I have to show identification if I use the standing order at a pharmacy?** Yes, be ready to show an ID, such as a driver's license or school ID, when you go to the pharmacy for your vaccine.
 - **Is there a cost for the vaccine?** While the standing order provides access to the vaccine, you are responsible for the cost of the vaccine.
 - **Private insurance:** To confirm if a vaccine is covered, contact your health plan administrator or the [Office of the Insurance Commissioner](#).
 - **Washington Apple Health (Medicaid):** Continues to cover the COVID-19 vaccine for members, including children, adults, and pregnant people.

- **Medicare:** Continues to cover the COVID-19 vaccine for everyone with Medicare, including people 65+ and those who are immunocompromised.
 - The vaccines are covered under Part B as a preventive service, so Medicare pays 100% —whether it’s the original vaccine or the updated versions. See [2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine pricing information](#) and [Medicare billing guidance](#) for more details.
- **Could this standing order change?** DOH continues to watch the science and evidence-based information for COVID-19 vaccine recommendations. We will make updates to the standing order as needed.
- **Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines, like the flu shot?** Yes, you can get COVID-19 and other vaccines during the same appointment, so you don’t have to come back later. You might experience slightly more side effects than if you got just one vaccine, but they are usually mild and go away quickly. For more information, see the Department of Health’s pamphlet, [Protect Yourself Against Respiratory Illnesses](#).
- **Is the standing order a vaccine mandate?** The standing order is not a vaccine mandate. The purpose of the standing order is to make vaccines easier to access, so more families can protect their health and their loved ones.
- **Can minors get the COVID-19 vaccine without a parent or guardian?** Like all vaccines, anyone under 18 usually needs a parent or guardian’s permission to get the COVID-19 vaccine. However, in some cases, minors who are legally independent or experiencing housing instability may be able to consent for themselves or get permission through their school. [Click for more information](#).
- **Who do I contact for additional questions?** If you have more questions, email the DOH Office of Immunization at oi@doh.wa.gov. Email is preferred so we can share helpful resources and keep track of questions more easily.

Apple Health clients can contact their health plan or the Health Care Authority:

Online: <https://fortress.wa.gov/hca/p1contactus/>

Email: askmedicaid@hca.wa.gov

Phone: 1-800-562-3022

TRS: 711 through [Washington Relay](#)

Client line (business hours): Monday - Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Pacific, except state holidays)