



## Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

As of June 18, 2022, the COVID-19 vaccine authorization and recommendations were updated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention. The changes made provide new guidance for use of COVID-19 vaccines for children 6 months to 4 years, new guidance regarding recommendations and schedules for children and youth, and the addition of new special populations for infants and young children.

At this time, all COVID-19 vaccines allowable for minors are approved or authorized by the FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization; therefore, recommendations and guidance may continue to change frequently.

Every Texan 6 months of age and older is eligible to receive free COVID-19 vaccines, including children and youth in conservatorship. Vaccine supply has improved and is readily available throughout Texas. The pediatric vaccine comes in a different formulation from the vaccine approved for adults, so it is important to seek out providers who have received the pediatric vaccine when getting children or youth vaccinated. At this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are approved for children or youth.

There is a schedule to follow for the administration of vaccinations. CDC has developed a resource sheet for parents and caregivers of children and youth. Please use the following link to determine the COVID-19 Vaccination Schedule:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/COVID-19-vacc-schedule-at-a-glance-508.pdf>

Talk to the child's healthcare provider about COVID-19 vaccination and any medical conditions the child may have that could impact the child's need for the vaccine. For example, certain conditions can make a child "immunocompromised," which can make a child more at risk of getting severely ill if they catch COVID-19. Caregivers of children receiving complex case management services by STAR Health will receive outreach regarding vaccines directly from STAR Health.

COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are recommended for eligible youth and continue to be voluntary under existing law and FDA guidance. As is best practice, older youth (16 and older) should have the opportunity to assent (if able) in addition to the consent provided by the medical consentor. Youth 16 and older who have been designated by the court to be their own medical consentor have the legal authority to consent or not to their own vaccines.

Caseworkers will notify parents of children in conservatorship whose parental rights have NOT been terminated of the department's plan to have the child receive the COVID-19 vaccine so that the parent has an opportunity to object if they wish. DFPS staff should ensure eligible youth have access to the vaccine by obtaining/providing consent by the medical consentor or a back-up medical consentor,

Updated 6-20-22

assuming there is no known parental objection. Medical consenters should confirm with caseworkers that parental notification has occurred prior to taking a youth for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Caregivers and caseworkers should contact providers in their area to ensure they are offering the appropriate vaccine before making an appointment or attending a walk-up vaccine clinic. Primary care providers may be administering the vaccine in their offices, so caregivers should check with a youth's medical provider to see if that is an option. Please call ahead to the provider as an appointment may be necessary. Do not show up at a vaccine hub, medical provider's office or pharmacy without first signing up or checking the provider's instructions for scheduling. Tools for locating vaccine providers are available at [covidvaccine.texas.gov](https://covidvaccine.texas.gov) or [vacunacovid.texas.gov](https://vacunacovid.texas.gov). The vaccine administration will be covered under a youth's STAR Health Medicaid coverage and STAR Health can also assist in finding a location.

**Additional resources:**

STAR Health Member Services: 1-866-912-6283

[COVID-19 Vaccine Information/DSHS](#)

[CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)

[CDC - Vaccine Safety](#)