



Dec. 17, 2021

To All Enrolled COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

Beginning Dec. 23, 2021, a new formulation of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for people aged 12 and older will be available. It is packaged in smaller quantities, can be stored at standard refrigerator temperatures longer, and does not require dilution.

Much like the Pfizer pediatric formulation (orange cap), the new **Pfizer Tris Sucrose adult/adolescent formulation** (gray cap) will be easier to administer, as it will not require diluent. It will be shipped from the manufacturer in smaller packages (300 doses) and can be stored for up to 10 weeks at standard refrigerator temperatures. **The existing adult/adolescent formulation (purple cap) that is available in increments of 1,170 will no longer be available after Dec. 22, 2021.**

The Ohio Department of Health would like to share important information and resources about the new Pfizer Tris Sucrose adult/adolescent formulation, and provide instructions for ordering, storage, and handling. **It is important to note that, before beginning to administer the new formulation, all COVID-19 vaccine providers are asked to first use existing supply of the original purple cap product.**

- Provider sites should ideally carry **only one Pfizer adult formulation** at a time. To avoid the possibility of administration errors during this transition, the two adult formulations should NOT be offered/administered at the same time.
- Before new orders will be processed for approval, ODH will evaluate a facility's existing supply of adult/adolescent Pfizer vaccine and throughput. Providers must ensure their inventory is accurate in the ImpactSIS Vaccine Ordering Management System (VOMS).
- The new gray cap product will be packaged with five boxes containing 60 doses per box for a total of 300 doses.

TRAINING

ODH will be offering a series of training sessions on ordering, storage, handling, and administration of the new adult/adolescent formulation. Please save the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, Dec. 21, 1-2 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 22, 9-10 a.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2-3 p.m.

- A recording of the training will be provided for anyone who is unable to attend any of the times above.
- Instructions on how to join the training sessions will be shared soon.

PFIZER PRODUCT CHANGES

Summary of Pfizer product specifications:

Name	Pfizer-BioNTech	Pfizer-BioNTech Tris Sucrose	Pfizer-BioNTech
Description	Adult/Adolescent Current Formulation <i>Discontinued 12/22/2021</i>	Adult/Adolescent New Formulation <i>Available 12/23/2021</i>	Pediatric Current Formulation
Age Group	12 years and older	12 years and older	5-11 years
Vial Cap Color	Purple	Gray	Orange
Shipment Quantity	1,170/450 doses	300 doses	100 doses
Doses per Vial	6	6	10
Name	Pfizer-BioNTech	Pfizer-BioNTech Tris Sucrose	Pfizer-BioNTech
ULT Freezer (ultracold)	9 months	6 months	6 months
Freezer	2 weeks	N/A	N/A
Refrigerator	1 month	10 weeks	10 weeks

HOW TO ORDER

Providers can request the new gray cap product through VOMS starting Dec. 23. Note, those orders will be reviewed by ODH and will be approved based upon existing inventory and throughput. Delivery of the new product will begin Jan. 4.

VOMS is open for providers to place orders 24 hours a day, seven days a week. With this transition, VOMS will include two ordering options for Pfizer products. Details for ordering are included below:

- **New Pfizer Tris Sucrose COVID-19 adult/adolescent formulation shipped directly by the manufacturer:**
 - The minimum order is 300 doses.
 - Ordering is available through the **"COVID-19 – Pfizer"** order set in VOMS.

- The Pfizer pediatric formulation is also available through this same order set in 100-dose increments.
- These orders are processed daily to the CDC/Pfizer warehouse for shipping.
- **Smaller quantities of the new Pfizer COVID-19 adult/adolescent formulation repackaged and shipped from the ODH Receipt, Stage, and Store Warehouse:**
 - The minimum order is 60 doses (available in 60-dose increments).
 - Ordering is available through the “COVID-19 – Pfizer RSS” order set in VOMS.
 - Orders will follow the standard RSS Tuesday/Thursday/Friday delivery cadence.
 - **Note**, with this change, the **Pfizer pediatric formulation** will only be available through the RSS Warehouse on an emergency basis. It is available for direct shipment in 100-dose increments, just like Moderna and Johnson & Johnson (Janssen), through the “**COVID-19 – Pfizer**” order set. The RSS Warehouse will primarily be focused on repackaging and distributing the new Pfizer adult/adolescent formulation into smaller quantities.

STORAGE AND HANDLING

A few key points COVID-19 vaccine providers should know about the new adult/adolescent formulation (gray cap).

- The new gray cap formulation **cannot** be stored in a standard freezer – only an ultracold freezer or a standard refrigerator.
- The new grey cap formulation **cannot** be stored in its thermal shipping container long term. After delivery, it must **immediately** be moved to an appropriate storage unit (ultracold freezer or standard refrigerator).
- Providers receiving ultra-low frozen shipments should place vaccine at the bottom area of their refrigeration units – not next to their temperature monitoring device sensor/probe and not next to other refrigerated vaccines. Good air circulation is essential.
- The new thermal shippers for direct-shipped Pfizer vaccine are disposable; however, the included temperature data loggers must be returned. Instructions on how to return the temperature monitors will be included in the shipper. For Pfizer vaccine shipped from the ODH RSS Warehouse, shippers must still be returned.
- For complete information about storage, handling, dosage, and administration, please see the [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Ages 12 and Older \(Gray Cap\) – Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers](#).

Resources for providers:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Toolkit](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine resources](#)

- **Pfizer Informational Webinars:** To access current and future training sessions, please visit: <https://www.pfizermedicalinformation.com/en-us/medical-updates>.
 - These sessions will be **updated** to reflect new information. These updates will be identified at the start of each session and discussed during each presentation.

If you have any questions or issues, please call the ODH Provider Call Center between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday at 1-844-9ODHVAX (1-844-963-4829) or email COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,
ODH COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Relations Team