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Benton County Mass Vaccination site to close May 28th

The Department of Health announced that the mass vaccination site at the Benton County Fairgrounds will close on May 28th. This site has been the main provider of vaccine to 12- to 18-year-olds as the site continues to administer mostly Pfizer. Other providers in the area currently offering Pfizer vaccine are pharmacies. Traditionally, pharmacy vaccine providers have not given vaccine to minors; however, we have heard many are vaccinating minors with the COVID-19 vaccine. The mass vaccination sites across the state were never meant to be a permanent presence in our communities. As we look to the site's closure, we need more providers than just our pharmacy partners. **Benton-Franklin Health District continues to look to our area medical provider offices, including our childhood vaccine providers, to provide COVID-19 vaccine to meet the community need.**

As with all other childhood vaccines, we can anticipate that COVID-19 vaccination will be with us for the foreseeable future. As requirements have eased from the state and storage of the vaccines have become easier, now is the time for those who provide other childhood immunizations to provide COVID-19 vaccine as well. In summary, here are some of the ways providing COVID-19 vaccine has become easier:

- Smaller orders of vaccine are now allowed
- Ordering has gotten easier as local health jurisdictions have become the vaccine hub
- The 95% vaccine use requirement has been removed by the state and replaced with a storage timeline of two weeks
- The Pfizer vaccine can be stored in a regular vaccine freezer for this two-week time frame and in a vaccine refrigerator for up to 120 hours
- The Department of Health (DOH) has announced a focus on vaccine convenience instead of waste reduction allowing providers to have some vaccine waste in order to vaccinate more individuals

We are here to help you navigate any concerns you may have regarding COVID-19 vaccinations. If you have any questions, please contact Miriam Chaviano at (509) 460-4226 or miriamc@bfhd.wa.gov. Additional information on provider registration and vaccine information for providers can be found below.

- Information for providers of COVID-19 Vaccination Program Enrollment can be found [here](#).
- To register, fill out this survey: [Enrollment Inquiry Form \(wa.gov\)](#).
- [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs for Health Care Professionals](#).

Fact Sheets for recipients:

- [COVID-19 Pfizer BioNTech Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients](#)
- [COVID-19 Moderna Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients](#)
- [COVID-19 Janssen Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients](#)

Vaccine Product and Storage/Handling Information:

- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine product information](#)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling Summarypdf icon](#)
- [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine product information](#)
- [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling Summarypdf icon](#)
- [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine product information](#)
- [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling Summarypdf icon](#)

Please open the attached COVID-19 Vaccine Storage Requirements Table for a full-size version of the requirements at a glance.

	Vaccine Storage Requirements					
	Pfizer		Moderna		Janssen	
Pre-Access Of Vial	Temperature Requirement	Time	Temperature Requirement	Time	Temperature Requirement	Time
	Refrigerated at 36 – 46 degrees F.	Up to 31 days	Refrigerated at 36 – 46 degrees F.	Until "Used by date"	Refrigerated at 36 – 46 degrees F.	Until Manufacturer's exp. date
Post- Access of Vial**	*Refrigerated at 36 – 46 degrees F.	Up to 6 hours mixed with normal saline	*Refrigerated at 36 – 46 degrees F.	Up to 6 hours	*Refrigerated at 36 – 46 degrees F.	Up to 6 hours
	Styrofoam Container at 35 – 77 degrees F. with frozen ice pack***	Up to 6 hours reconstituted with normal saline	Styrofoam Container at 35 – 77 degrees F. with frozen ice pack***	Up to 6 hours	Styrofoam Container at 35 – 77 degrees F. with frozen ice pack***	Up to 2 hours where 2 hours does not exceed 6 hours vial access time

*Refrigerated means vaccine vials or filled syringes are inside a digital temperature monitored BFHD approved AC powered refrigerator
 **Accessing of vial means vaccine vial's rubber stopper has been penetrated with needle
 ***Vaccine vials and vaccine-filled syringes should never be in direct contact with frozen ice pack