



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

JAMES V. McDONALD, MD, MPH
Commissioner

JOHANNE E. MORNE, MS
Executive Deputy Commissioner

DATE: September 5, 2025

TO: Pharmacists, Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, Local Health Departments

FROM: New York State Department of Health

2025-2026 COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR Pharmacists to prescribe patient-specific orders for COVID-19 vaccination for patients age 3 and older for off-label usage of COVID-19 Vaccine

While federal actions may restrict eligibility for adults with no underlying conditions, providers may administer the vaccine to individuals consistent with “off-label” use, by a patient-specific order.

Based upon Executive Order # 52 as stated:

Subdivision 1 of section 6801 of the Education Law to the extent necessary to authorize a pharmacist to prescribe and order a patient-specific order for immunizations to prevent COVID-19 to patients three years of age or older in accordance with guidelines issued by the Commissioner of Health.

Procedure for prescribing patient-specific order for COVID-19 vaccine for patients age 3 and older who do not meet the current Food and Drug Administration indications by Pharmacists.

- 1) Obtain written consent from Patient for Treatment by Pharmacist
- 2) Obtain patient’s written attestation that they do not meet any of the Food and Drug Administration indications for COVID-19 vaccination and want to receive the vaccination off-label
- 3) Pharmacist-to-patient discussion regarding:
 - Screening for contraindications to COVID-19 vaccination or one of its components, including but not limited to:
 - Allergic reaction
 - History of myocarditis or pericarditis
 - History of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) or adults (MIS-A)
 - Discussion of risks, benefits and alternatives to vaccination per the vaccine information sheet from the CDC
- 4) Obtain patient’s written consent to receive the pharmacist-prescribed COVID-19 vaccination off label
- 5) Write and record the patient-specific order for COVID-19 vaccination documenting items 1-4
- 6) Proceed with the normal procedure for administration of the vaccine per their pharmacy protocol.