



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

February 4, 2022

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2022 - 0041-A

TO : ALL DEPARTMENT UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTRY OF BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (BARM); AND BUREAU DIRECTORS; SPECIAL AND SPECIALTY HOSPITAL DIRECTORS; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS AND SANITARIA; AND OTHER CONCERNED OFFICES

SUBJECT : Amendment to Department Memorandum No. 2022-0041 dated January 24, 2022 entitled "Interim Guidelines on the Management and Administration of Tozinameran COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (nucleoside-modified) [Comirnaty] Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine to Pediatric Population Ages 5-11 Years Old

The Department Memorandum No. 2022-0041 dated January 24, 2022, entitled "Interim Guidelines on the Management and Administration of Tozinameran COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (nucleoside-modified) [Comirnaty] Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine to Pediatric Population Ages 5-11 Years Old" is hereby amended for clarification to avoid misinterpretation during implementation. The amendments are as follows:

A. Section IV. A. General Guidelines on the specific Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for pediatric population ages 5 to 11 years old:

From	To
The pediatric population ages 5-11 years old shall be recommended to be vaccinated with the Tozinameran COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (nucleoside-modified) [Comirnaty] Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine approved for use to the aforementioned age group based on the EUA issued by the Philippine FDA.	Age-appropriate formulation of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines shall be administered to the vaccine recipient. Tozinameran COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (nucleoside-modified) [Comirnaty] 10 microgram/ dose concentrate for Dispersion for Injection (IM) shall be administered to children aged 5 to less than 12 years old. Tozinameran COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (nucleoside-modified) [Comirnaty] 30 microgram/ dose dispersion for Injection(IM) shall be administered to individuals 12 years of age and older. If the vaccine recipient turns from 11 to 12 years of age in between the first and second doses, the second dose to be administered shall be the appropriate Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine formulation for individuals 12 years of age and older. (Refer to Department Circular Nos. 2021-

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	<i>0464, 2021-0464-A, 2021-0483 and other relevant issuances for the pediatric population ages 12 - 17 years old.)</i>

B. Section V. Implementing Guidelines D. Vaccine Administration, Storage, Handling and Preparation No. 3 Shelf life and Storage:

From	To
When stored at -90°C to -60°C, A 10-vial pack shall be thawed at 2°C to 8°C for four (4) hours. An individual vial shall be thawed at room temperature (up to 30°C) for 30 minutes. Once thawed, this may be stored at 2° to 8°C for 10 weeks within the 6-month shelf life.	When stored at -90°C to -60°C, A 10-vial pack shall be thawed at 2°C to 8°C for four (4) hours. An individual vial shall be thawed at room temperature (up to 30°C) for 30 minutes. Once thawed, this may be stored at 2° to 8°C for 10 weeks within the 9-month shelf life or based on the most updated EUA from the FDA

C. Section V. Implementing Guidelines H.Vaccination Process No. 1. b on the documents to be presented in the registration area:

From	To
<p>b. The following documents shall be presented in the registration area (<i>Refer to Annex A for list of proof of filiation and valid identification cards</i>):</p> <p>i. Proof of filiation or relationship between the child and the accompanying adult or other supporting document proving authority to give informed consent or assent.</p> <p>ii. Valid identification cards.</p>	<p>b. The following documents shall be presented in the registration area (<i>Refer to Annex A for list of proof of filiation and valid identification cards</i>):</p> <p>i. Proof of filiation or relationship between the child and the accompanying adult or other supporting document proving authority to give informed consent.</p> <p>ii. Valid identification cards or other proof of identity issued by the government, such as but not limited to Barangay Certification, COMELEC Certification and other documents showing the identity of the person.</p>

D. Section V. Implementing Guidelines H.Vaccination Process No. 4.C. on dilution of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines for 5-11 years old:

From	To
<p>c. Dilution of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines for 5-11 years old</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Once thawed, the vaccine shall be diluted in its original vial with 1.3 mL sodium chloride 9 mg/mL (0.9%) solution for injection, using a 21 gauge or narrower needle and aseptic techniques. ii. Equalize vial pressure before removing the needle from the vial stopper by withdrawing 1.3 mL air into the empty diluent syringe. iii. Gently invert the diluted dispersion ten (10) times. Do NOT shake. iv. The diluted vaccine shall come as a white to off-white dispersion with no particulates visible. Diluted vaccines shall NOT be used if particulates or discoloration are present. v. The diluted vials shall be marked with the appropriate date and time. 	<p>c. Dilution of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines for 5-11 years old</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Prior to dilution, allow the thawed vaccine to come to room temperature and gently invert it 10 times. Do not shake. The thawed dispersion may contain white to off-white opaque amorphous particles. ii. The thawed vaccine shall be diluted in its original vial with 1.3 mL sodium chloride 9 mg/mL (0.9%) solution for injection, using a 21 gauge or narrower needle and aseptic techniques. iii. Equalize vial pressure before removing the needle from the vial stopper by withdrawing 1.3 mL air into the empty diluent syringe. iv. Gently invert the diluted dispersion ten (10) times. Do NOT shake. v. The diluted vaccine shall come as a white to off-white dispersion with no particulates visible. Diluted vaccines shall NOT be used if particulates or discoloration are present. vi. The diluted vials shall be marked with the appropriate date and time.

E. Section V. Implementing Guidelines K: Demand Generation and Communication on utilization of the Demand Generation playbook:

From	To
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LVOCs shall utilize the LGU Demand Generation playbook updated for pediatric COVID-19 vaccination to update their microplans. LVOCs shall provide bimonthly updates to CHDs on their implementation, including social listening data as prescribed in the playbook. 2. CHDs shall provide bimonthly updates to Task Group Demand Generation and Communications (TG DGC) on 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LVOCs shall utilize print, broadcast, and digital collateral to ensure access of information, especially for vulnerable groups. Both online and non-online platforms should be maximized to disseminate the materials (https://bit.ly/ResbakunaKids_2022) for pediatric vaccination to children, parents, and healthcare worker teams. 2. CHDs shall provide bimonthly updates to Task Group Demand Generation and Communications (TG DGC) on the progress of activities based on

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<p>the progress of activities based on microplans</p> <p>3. CHDs shall ensure feedback mechanisms and social listening by:</p> <p>a. Reporting frequently asked questions, misinformation, and rumors weekly to the TG DGC</p> <p>b. Disseminating surveys and ensuring achievement of minimum respondents</p> <p>c. Promoting the use of DOH's Katuwang na Impormasyon para sa Responsableng Aksyon (KIRA) chatbot</p>	<p>microplans</p> <p>3. CHDs shall ensure feedback mechanisms and social listening by:</p> <p>a. Reporting frequently asked questions, misinformation, and rumors weekly to the TG DGC</p> <p>b. Promoting the use of DOH's Katuwang na Impormasyon para sa Responsableng Aksyon (KIRA) chatbot (https://m.me/OfficialDOHgov) to ask questions (Magtanong kay KIRA) and verify validity of information; and to report both positive and negative feedback about their vaccination experience (Magreport kay KIRA)</p>

F. Annex A mentioned in Section V. Implementing Guidelines H. Vaccination Process No 1. b on additional protocols in getting assent/consent of the pediatric population:

From	To
<p>4. In case of foundlings, abandoned, neglected or abused children and other children similarly situated, parental authority shall be entrusted in summary judicial proceedings to heads of children's homes, orphanages and similar institutions duly accredited by the DSWD or its city/municipal counterparts.</p> <p>5. In case the parent/guardian refuses to give consent to the vaccination despite the desire and willingness of the minor child to have himself/herself vaccinated, or there are no persons that may legally exercise parental authority over the child, the State may act as parens patriae and give the necessary consent. Therefore, the proper officer representing the State as parens patriae may sign the consent form. In this regard, the DSWD or</p>	<p>4. In case of foundlings, abandoned, neglected or abused children and other children similarly situated, parental authority shall be entrusted in summary judicial proceedings to heads of children's homes, orphanages and similar institutions duly accredited by the DSWD or its city/municipal counterparts. All applicable laws, rules, proceedings, and issuances, such as but not limited to the ones issued by the DSWD, shall be observed under this provision.</p> <p>Rescinded.</p>

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its city/municipal counterparts shall serve as the proper office who shall represent the State.	

All other provisions of Department Memorandum No. 2022-0041 dated January 24, 2022 not affected by this amendment shall remain valid and in effect.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:



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Undersecretary of Health
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