

COVID-19 Fact Sheet

COVID-19 Vaccination: State Minor Consent Requirements

Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine has been authorized for emergency use in [minors between the ages of 16 and 18](#), as well as [minors between ages 12 and 15](#). As a result, minors across the country have been getting vaccinated, and accompanying questions have arisen regarding minor consent. Differences in state minor consent laws have resulted in varying state and local responses. A review of select state requirements, and additional information as available from certain state or local health departments, is consolidated below.

1. Alabama

Minors above age 14 do not need parental consent to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Alabama law states that "any minor who is 14 years of age or older, or has graduated from high school, or is married, or having been married is divorced or is pregnant may give effective consent to any legally authorized medical, dental, health or mental health services for himself or herself, and the consent of no other person shall be necessary." [Ala. Code § 22-8-4](#).


2. Arizona

Generally, minors cannot consent to vaccination in Arizona. Localities are addressing the issue in different ways. [One Maricopa County vaccination site](#) requires persons under 18 years of age to be accompanied by a legal guardian and show proof of age on entry. [In Pima County](#), a parent/guardian must be present to complete consent forms. However, there is an exception: minors can bring a notarized letter from the parent stating that a designated accompanying adult may complete the forms.

After the FDA authorized the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for ages 12-15, Arizona's Department of Health Services [instructed](#) that parents/guardians must accompany children and sign consent forms attesting that the minor is at least 12 years old.

3. California

California law generally only allows minors to consent for HPV and Hepatitis B vaccinations. Minor consent is being handled at the local level. The San Francisco Department of Public Health issued [a detailed order](#)



allowing minors 12 and up to consent to receive COVID-19 vaccines, whether fully approved or authorized by EUA. The healthcare provider must reasonably attempt to notify a person with legal authority to consent, who may decline. If the legally responsible adult objects, then the healthcare provider may not rely on the minor's consent, but other avenues may be available (including seeking the order of a court to allow the vaccination over the adult's objection).

In contrast, [L.A. County](#) requires a parent/legal guardian to accompany the minor; if not possible, the minor will be allowed to obtain the vaccine with a completed consent form, signed by the parent/guardian, so long as they possess a photo ID and proof of age. [In San Diego County](#), a parent/legal guardian can consent for minors online upon booking the appointment. At a no appointment site, the parent/legal guardian must accompany the minor.

4. District of Columbia

DC law states that minors can consent to vaccines recommended by the U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) if the minor is at least 11 years of age, capable of giving informed consent, and the vaccine is provided according to the ACIP schedule. [D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 22, § 22-B600.9](#). The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was recommended for use in minors between 16-18 years of age by ACIP in [December 2020](#), and in minors between 12-15 years of age in [May 2021](#), but the vaccine has [not officially been inserted into the ACIP schedule](#). Additionally, Children's National, a pediatric hospital which was [previously handling all 16- and 17-year old's vaccination efforts in D.C.](#), requires parental consent and a parent/guardian on-site. [The Children's National website](#) states that this requirement is in place because of the EUA status of the vaccine.

5. Maryland

Maryland has not issued a detailed state-wide policy on how parental consent must be obtained. As a result, each local jurisdiction and each provider site varies in their approach. In Baltimore County, per the County Department of Health, parental consent is required upon registering the child for the vaccine appointment online. For the vaccination appointment itself, the parent does not need to be present, but an adult designated by the parent must accompany the minor. For example, a grandparent could accompany the child to the vaccination site. The grandparent must present a letter from the parent designating them as the responsible adult for the appointment with a copy of the parent's ID included with the letter.

With respect to boarding schools, parents provide consent online and then designate a school representative as the responsible adult for COVID testing or vaccination.

6. Michigan

The Network has prepared an FAQ which analyzes this specific question relating to Michigan. Please see [COVID-19 FAQs for Michigan Local Health Departments, Part VI. Vaccination](#). Generally, minors in Michigan cannot consent for medical care unless emancipated or in a medical emergency.

7. Minnesota

Minnesota requires parental consent for the COVID-19 vaccine with a few exceptions: (1) minors living apart from their parent/guardian; (2) married minors, and (3) minors who have given birth. If one of these exceptions does not apply, the parent must provide consent *and* accompany the minor to the vaccination according to a [Minnesota State Health Department resource \(Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine for People Ages 16 and 17\)](#).

However, this same resource states:

If a parent/guardian is not able to go with the child to get their vaccine, ask the provider about their consent process and access to the [Emergency Use Authorization fact sheet: Pfizer-](#)

[BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#). This is like the Vaccine Information Statements given before other routine vaccinations. Make sure all your questions are answered.

This language indicates that each provider may be conducting consent processes in distinct ways, and that the state may be permitting alternatives to the in-person parent/guardian requirement. Confirming processes with specific providers is recommended.

8. New York

In New York, parental consent is required for the COVID-19 vaccine. The parent must provide this consent verbally at the time of vaccination [either in person or by phone](#).

9. Oregon

The [Oregon Health Authority \(OHA\) published a series of FAQs](#), one of which addresses 16-17-year-olds. The FAQ states that under Oregon law, minors 15 and up may consent to medical treatment from certain providers (including physicians, physicians assistants, nurse practitioners, etc.) without parental/guardian consent. Therefore, the OHA states that consent of a parent/guardian should not be required when the providers specified in law administer vaccines to minors under 15, but advises providers administering the vaccine to make it clear at the time an appointment is made whether parental/guardian consent will be requested.

Additional resources discussing state minor consent laws are available from [Vaxteen.org](#), the [Center for Adolescent Health & the Law](#), and the [National District Attorney's Association](#). As indicated by information from Arizona, California, Maryland, and Oregon, approaches to minor consent may vary based on locality and individual vaccination site. Confirming requirements with each individual vaccination site in advance is recommended.

SUPPORTERS



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