Our goal continues to be to vaccinate as many people as quickly and fairly as possible in North Carolina against COVID-19. We have a statewide goal of vaccinating two-thirds of adults as soon as possible.

**Key Updates:**

**All North Carolinians ages 12 and older can now get vaccinated with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine:**
- Based on a review of safety and effectiveness data from clinical trials in the United States, the FDA has expanded the age for emergency use authorization for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the of the CDC has recommended use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 12 through 15.
- **Communications Resources (Sections 6.3 and 6.5):** A suite of communications materials for vaccines for teens can be found here.
- **Vaccine Coadministration (Section 13):** COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may now be administered without regard to timing. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines on the same day, as well as coadministration within 14 days. It is unknown whether reactogenicity is increased with coadministration, including with other vaccines known to be more reactogenic, such as adjuvanted vaccines. When deciding whether to co-administer with COVID-19 vaccines, providers should consider whether the patient is behind or at risk of becoming behind on recommended vaccines and the reactogenicity profile of the vaccines.
- **Amended Statewide Standing Order (Section 13):** On May 12, 2021, the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) State Health Director amended the statewide Standing Order for FDA Authorized mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Administration for Pfizer and Moderna to include the use of the Pfizer vaccine for adolescents ages 12 through 15.
- **Consent (Section 11.2):** In some cases, vaccine providers may choose to communicate with parents and guardians, and obtain parental/guardian consent for COVID-19 vaccination for adolescents who are 12 years and older. NC General Statute 90-21.5 gives minors the legal authority to consent for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of reportable communicable disease and COVID-19 is a reportable disease under NCGS 130A-135 pursuant to rules of the Public Health Commission (10A NCAC 41A.0101.0107). Therefore, pursuant to NC General Statute 90-21.5, it is permissible for teenagers to consent for themselves, if they are judged to have decisional capacity, meaning that they are able to understand and make decisions about their health. The emergency use authorization status of vaccines does not impact the ability of teenagers to consent for themselves.

**New Provider Enrollment Summary Document (Section 9.0):** A new one-pager on how to get started as a COVID-19 Vaccine Provider is now available. A condensed toolkit will also be available soon.
A dose is a dose (Section 17.1): NC can now move to a “dose is a dose” philosophy to allow more flexibility for providers to request and administer doses as needed with no first or second dose differentiation. More information on a new vaccination allocation request process and updated expectations will be coming. As part of this updated strategy and to help ensure vaccine already on NC shelves is administered before expiration, we will also move second dose orders to request only and will no longer automatically send.

Unused doses (Section 17.9): CDC recognizes that as we continue to create more opportunities to vaccinate more people, it may increase the likelihood of leaving unused doses in a vial and vaccine wastage. While we want to continue to follow best practices to use every dose possible, we do not want that to be at the expense of missing an opportunity to vaccinate every eligible person when they are ready to get vaccinated.

CVMS Updates (Section 7.0): Many North Carolinians can view and print their COVID-19 vaccine information in the COVID-19 Vaccine Portal, including anyone who received their COVID-19 vaccine from a North Carolina enrolled provider, and provided an email address to their provider. The Vaccine Information PDF will also include a QR code that can be scanned to provide vaccine information for the recipient for whom it was generated. However, if the recipient received their COVID-19 vaccine from a pharmacy participating in the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program (such as CVS or Walgreens) or from another federal vaccine provider such as the Department of Defense, that individual will have to work directly with their vaccinating provider for a copy of their COVID-19 Vaccine information.