EMS System for Metropolitan Oklahoma City and Tulsa
Interim Guidance from the Chief Medical Officer

Approved 1/12/21, Effective 1/12/21, new interim guidance issuance

COVID-19 Vaccine Administration

PARAMEDIC

Indications:

1. Vaccinating Paramedic has completed all required COVID-19 vaccination training requirements established by relevant public health authority (typically Oklahoma City County Health Department, Tulsa Health Department, or Oklahoma State Department of Health).
2. Request for COVID-19 vaccination by anyone authorized by the relevant public health authority (typically Oklahoma City County Health Department, Tulsa Health Department, or Oklahoma State Department of Health) to receive COVID-19 vaccination. At Interim Guidance new issuance, the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for individuals age 16 years and older. For the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, FDA approval is for individuals age 18 years and older.
3. Timing of request above within a time period authorized by the Chief Medical Officer (timing at issuance is without limitation).

Contraindications:

1. Per the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), history of severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to any of the components of the vaccine. Check manufacturer listing of components of the specific vaccine intended for administration. Most anaphylaxis observed to date from COVID-19 vaccine is thought due to polyethylene glycol (PEG) which can be used as a thickener, softener, or moisture carrier in products such as toothpaste, shampoo, and laxatives.

   Current observation in the United States indicates that anaphylaxis to COVID-19 vaccines is very rare. During December 14–23, 2020, monitoring by the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System detected 21 cases of anaphylaxis after administration of a reported 1,893,360 first doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (11.1 cases per million doses); 71% of these occurred within 15 minutes of vaccination. (source: Allergic Reactions Including Anaphylaxis After Receipt of the First Dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine — United States, December 14–23, 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. ePub: 6 January 2021.)

Precaution Considerations that are NOT Contraindications:

1. Per the CDC, persons with moderate to severe acute illness (e.g., pneumonia with acute dyspnea) should be encouraged to recover from such illness and vaccination is recommended deferred until that time.
2. Per the CDC, history of severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to another vaccine or injectable therapy.

   Of note, the CDC vaccine safety team experts have shared that there are NO contraindications or precautions to getting the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines if allergic to food (including eggs or gelatin), pets, venoms, environmental agents, oral medications, or latex.

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COVID-19 Vaccine Administration (cont.)

Procedure Comments:

1. Review all COVID-19 vaccine manufacturer's instructions supplied with the vaccine.
2. The COVID-19 vaccine must be stored and handled per manufacturer's instructions.
3. Utilize a standardized COVID-19 vaccination informed consent form available from the relevant public health authority.
4. Utilize a standardized COVID-19 vaccination pre-screening questionnaire form AND provide the patient a standardized pre-vaccination information sheet specific to the COVID-19 vaccine, which are both available from the relevant public health authority. It is federal law that anyone being vaccinated (or the legal guardian of the person being vaccinated) receive pre-vaccination information, typically called a Vaccine Information Statement (VIS), specific to the vaccine describing its risks and benefits. Review this information with the patient (or legal guardian) and give a copy of such to them for their personal records. Specific to the COVID-19 vaccines, the VIS is called “Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).”
5. Ensure appropriate medical equipment is present at the COVID-19 vaccination site for treatment per protocol of allergic reaction.
6. Administer COVID-19 vaccine per manufacturer's instructions - dose, deltoid IM route, etc.
7. Monitor the patient for any immediate allergic reaction for a minimum of 15 minutes if no precaution considerations present. If precaution considerations are present, increase the minimum monitoring time to 30 minutes post-vaccination.
8. Prior to patient leaving the COVID-19 vaccination site, ensure the following information is obtained and documented on the COVID-19 vaccination form for each patient:
    a. Contact information: preferred mailing address, preferred email (if applicable), preferred phone
    b. This information is necessary if the COVID-19 vaccination lot is found problematic (e.g., defective in immunity function) and patient notification is required.
9. Provide the patient with a standardized CDC COVID-19 vaccination record card that has been completed by the vaccination team so the patient has a record of when vaccinated, what vaccine they received to include the specific manufacturer of it, the lot number of the vaccine received, and when the second dose (if applicable) should be scheduled. At present, the second dose for the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is 21 days after the first dose; the second dose for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is 28 days after the first dose. Patients are also to receive a standardized COVID-19 vaccination post-vaccination information form, including information about enrolling in the V-safe after vaccination health checker smartphone app. These information forms are available from the relevant public health authority.
10. A standard EMS Agency and/or Fire Department patient care record does NOT need to be generated, but the COVID-19 vaccinating organization must maintain a log of all patient contacts associated with a COVID-19 vaccination program. For each patient receiving a COVID-19 vaccine administration, the following must be recorded for EMS system and MCB/OMD availability:
    a. date of COVID-19 vaccine administration
    b. the manufacturer and lot number of seasonal influenza vaccine administered
    c. vaccination site and route (e.g., left deltoid IM)
    d. name of Paramedic administering the vaccination

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COVID-19 Vaccine Administration (cont.)

Procedure Comments (cont.):

11. For each patient receiving a COVID-19 vaccine administration, the vaccination information must also be recorded into the Oklahoma State Immunization Information System (OSIIS). Information about OSIIS and recording information into it should be coordinated with the relevant public health authority.
12. Any and all adverse medical reactions to the administration of a COVID-19 vaccine must be reported to the Chief Medical Officer or his/her designee within 24 hours. Upon the Chief Medical Officer's review, further reporting may be directed to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at www.vaers.hhs.gov or (800) 822-7967.