



# **The National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Manual**

## **2025 COVID-19 VACCINATION PROTOCOL**

### *Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Module for Dialysis Patients*

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\*Protocols from previous years are posted on the NHSN Website under the 'Manuals & Protocols' heading on the left-hand navigation bar. Please review these protocols if you are submitting data for earlier time periods.



## 1. Introduction to the Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Module

**Background:** CDC began collecting weekly vaccination data, reported voluntarily through the Dialysis COVID-19 Vaccination Module on March 11, 2021. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Network program established COVID-19 vaccination reporting requirements beginning March 17, 2021. Dialysis facilities report COVID-19 vaccination data on patients through the Dialysis Component and on healthcare personnel through the Healthcare Personnel Safety (HPS) Component. This protocol covers submission of COVID-19 vaccination data for dialysis patients. Please see the following protocol for information on reporting COVID-19 vaccination data for healthcare personnel: [Combined Covid-19 Vaccination Protocol for Healthcare Personnel \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dlnd/COVID-19/vaccination-reporting-requirements.html).

**Objectives:** The Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Module is designed to ensure that reporting of COVID-19 vaccination data is both consistent over time within a single healthcare facility and comparable across facilities. Using this module enables facilities to collect, track and report COVID-19 vaccination data on a weekly basis. Data can be submitted manually or via .CSV upload. Healthcare facilities benefit by receiving technical support and standardized methodologies, including a Web-based application, for conducting vaccination surveillance activities. Using NHSN to monitor COVID-19 vaccination may also result in increased COVID-19 vaccination coverage, because improvements in tracking and reporting vaccination status will allow facilities to better identify and target unvaccinated persons.

By using NHSN, vaccination coverage data can be made available to authorities at the local and national levels to identify coverage gaps. The data can also be combined with data on infection rates to inform infection control policies and recommendations.

## 2. COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage among Dialysis Patients

### Background

In 2020, -SARS-CoV-2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2), the virus that causes COVID-19 disease, began spreading and became a pandemic. In response, COVID-19 vaccines were introduced in December 2020. The NHSN COVID-19 Vaccination Cumulative Summary Module was developed to collect data on COVID-19 vaccination coverage among certain populations, including dialysis patients, in the United States.



## Settings

Outpatient dialysis centers.

## Requirements

Participating facilities are required to report COVID-19 vaccination data according to this protocol, using the NHSN definitions described herein, to ensure data are uniformly reported across facilities.

CDC/NHSN encourages facilities to update COVID-19 vaccination summary data on a weekly basis, so they have the greatest impact on COVID-19 vaccination activities. The week-end date determines which month a week is included. For example, reporting data for the week of Wednesday, June 26, 2024, through Tuesday, July 2, 2024, is considered as submitting data for a week in July, not June. This is because the week-end date (July 2) is in July.

## Reporting Instructions

### Forms, Description, and Purpose

- *Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Cumulative Summary for Dialysis Patients (CDC 57.509)*
  - This is used to collect data on summary COVID-19 vaccination counts among patients of dialysis facilities. Facilities can enter data each week, defined as Wednesday through Tuesday. Facilities can also edit and update data after the initial data entry. When entering data, all required fields indicated with an asterisk must be completed. Otherwise, the data cannot be saved. Users should enter “0” in a field if no patients at the facility fall into that category.

### *Denominator Categories*

The denominator is defined as the total number of patients receiving dialysis care from the facility during the week of reporting, whether care was provided in-center or through home dialysis. Facilities have the option of reporting vaccination data on patients by the type of dialysis care received (in-center versus home dialysis). If entered, the categories for patients receiving different types of dialysis care should be mutually exclusive. For patients receiving more than one type of dialysis care during the week of data collection, facilities should classify the patient according to the type of dialysis care they received first. Each patient should be counted only once in the denominator.

### *Numerator Categories*

Individuals should be counted as up to date with COVID-19 vaccines if they have received the most recent COVID-19 vaccine(s) recommended for them. Please see the following document for more information: [COVID-19 Vaccination Modules: Understanding Key Terms and Up to date Vaccination](#). Vaccination coverage is defined as a measure of the estimated percentage of people in a sample or population who received a specific vaccine or vaccines.



Facilities are required to complete the following numerator fields in the NHSN application:

- a. received the most recent up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination administered at the healthcare facility; or reported in writing (paper or electronic) or provided documentation that up-to-date vaccination was received elsewhere; or
- b. were determined to have a medical contraindication, defined as: severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine or an immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a previous dose or known (diagnosed) allergy to a component of the vaccine
- c. were offered but declined COVID-19 vaccination; or
- d. had an unknown vaccination status or did not otherwise meet any of the definitions of the other numerator categories.

#### *Numerator Notes*

The NHSN application collects data on the number of individuals meeting various vaccination status definitions, depending on the week of data report. For all vaccination questions consider the following:

1. Persons who received vaccination outside of the facility but did not provide written documentation should be categorized as having unknown vaccination status.
2. Persons who declined vaccination because of conditions other than those specified in category (b) above should be categorized as declined vaccination. \*
3. Persons who declined vaccination and did not provide any other information should be categorized as declined vaccination.
4. Persons who did not receive vaccination because of religious or philosophical exemptions should be categorized as declined vaccination.
5. Facilities should report cumulative data. This cumulative count should include all individuals in question #1 who were ever vaccinated and not just those individuals vaccinated during the current reporting week.

**\*Note:** For the purpose of this module, a medical contraindication to vaccination is defined as having a severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine or an immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a previous dose or known (diagnosed) allergy to a component of the vaccine. A healthcare facility may grant



medical exemptions to individuals with other conditions besides those defined for this module and may include these conditions in its list of acceptable medical contraindications to COVID-19

vaccination. However, to ensure that data are comparable across different facilities reporting data using this module, only those individuals with one of the two conditions stated above should be reported to NHSN as having a medical contraindication to COVID-19 vaccination.

### **Data Sources**

Data sources for the required data elements include medical or occupational health records (e.g., electronic health data) vaccination records, claims, instrument-based data, and immunization tracking. Individuals can self-report in writing (paper or electronic) that the vaccination was received elsewhere or provide documentation of receipt of the COVID-19 vaccine elsewhere. Documentation should include the date and location of vaccine receipt and vaccine type. For this reporting module, verbal statements are not acceptable proof of vaccination outside the facility. However, individuals can provide verbal statements for medical contraindications to and declination of the COVID-19 vaccine, as written documentation is not required for NHSN reporting.

### **Methodology**

The COVID-19 vaccination summary data reporting enables a healthcare facility to record weekly COVID-19 vaccination data for dialysis patients. Data must be entered for the denominator categories and the four numerator fields describing vaccination status.

This module requires that data be collected as per CDC reporting requirements. Facilities can select the week for which they would like to report data. Any new data that are entered into NHSN will overwrite previously entered data.

### **Data Analyses**

Vaccination coverage is defined as a measure of the estimated percentage of people in a sample or population who received the most recent up to date COVID-19 vaccination. For more information on who is considered up to date with COVID-19 vaccines please visit: [COVID-19 Vaccination Modules: Understanding Key Terms and Up to date Vaccination](#).

The COVID-19 Up to Date vaccination coverage rate is calculated using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{\# Cumulative total of individuals Up to Date}}{\text{\# Individuals at the facility (excluding contraindications)}} \times 100 = \text{Pct. of individuals Up to Date}$$



Please note that the analysis reports available in NHSN include several rate calculations. More information on running analysis reports in NHSN are available here: [Dialysis](#) | [Weekly Patient COVID-19 Vaccination](#) | [NHSN](#) | [CDC](#)

Since February 2024, timestamps in the NHSN application have displayed Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). UTC is the international time standard. UTC serves as a uniform and universal reference to measure time across all time zones. UTC has been implemented as part of ongoing NHSN system upgrades and modernization efforts.



### 3. Key Terms

| <b>Key term</b>                   | <b>Definition for purpose of the COVID-19 Vaccination Summary Module</b>   |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Cumulative data</b>            | Cumulative data account for all individuals eligible to work at the facility and who were ever vaccinated (not just those individuals vaccinated during the current reporting week). |
| <b>In-center dialysis patient</b> | A patient receiving dialysis services at the facility.   |
| <b>Home dialysis patient</b>      | A patient receiving dialysis services (including hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis) at home.  |