



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

Date: December 15, 2021

From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory Update #45: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Update: Pfizer Vaccine Age Indication

Key Messages

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have approved the Pfizer COVID-19 boosters for 16 and 17-year-olds.
- The booster dose is the same formulation (0.3 mL, purple cap) as the primary two-dose primary series and can be given 6 months after the completion of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine primary series.

Situation

This week federal agencies met to review the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and recommended a single booster for 16- and 17-year-olds who completed their primary series with vaccine.

Approval Process

Federal

On December 9, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expanded the [eligibility for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to include a single booster dose for individuals 16 years and 17 years of age](#). The FDA based the authorization on available safety and immunogenicity in adults vaccinated and boosted with the Pfizer vaccine. Of note, the FDA commented that the benefits of a single booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine or Comirnaty outweigh the risks of myocarditis and pericarditis in individuals 16 and 17 years of age to provide continued protection against COVID-19 and the associated serious consequences that can occur, including hospitalization and death.

The same day, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a [statement in support](#) of the FDA's authorized expansion of eligibility and [updated the CDC guidance](#) to include the booster for 16- and 17-year-olds. In a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#) on the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant issued on December 10, 2021, the CDC included boosting of this age group among the effective means to slow the transmission of SAR-CoV-2, including the Omicron Variant.

Western States and California

The Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup also met on December 9, 2021. The Workgroup then issued a [joint statement with the California Department](#) of Public Health (CDPH) strongly supporting CDC's strengthening its booster recommendation and encouraging 16- and 17-year-olds to receive a booster shot if they are at least 6 months past their initial Pfizer vaccination series.

Vaccine Administration

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine booster dose is authorized under the same [emergency use authorization](#) originally given for persons 18 years and older and the Pfizer vaccine for children 12–15 years old. Pfizer’s vaccine has full federal approval of the primary series for people ages 16 and above under than vaccine name Comirnaty. This booster dose is the same formulation (0.3 mL, purple cap) as the primary series and can be given no earlier than 6 months after the completion of the Pfizer CPVID-19 vaccine primary series. The booster can be co-administered with seasonal influenza vaccine other vaccines if indicated. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) [supports co-administration of COVID-19 vaccine](#) with routine childhood and adolescent immunizations to catch children up on any missed vaccine.

Scheduling

MyTurn.ca.gov is currently being updated to reflect the expanded eligibility. Parents and guardians are encouraged to check with their teen's health care provider to schedule their booster appointment.

Actions Requested

1. If not already enrolled, providers can listen to the recorded webinar on [how to enroll in the California COVID-19 vaccination program](#) and participate in COVID-19 vaccination.
2. Remain up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccine [clinical considerations, including contraindications and precautions](#).
3. Providers supplied with Pfizer vaccine should consider co-administration of routine childhood and adolescent vaccines with COVID-19 vaccine to catch children up on any missed vaccines.
4. Report vaccine-related adverse events and deaths, as well as vaccine administration errors to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#), and to the County Immunization Program at IZINFO.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov or Fax: (619) 692-5677.

Resources

- [Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers 12 years of age and older | FDA](#)
- [Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)
- [Pediatric Healthcare Professionals COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkit | CDC](#)
- [Administration Overview for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine | CDC](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Omicron Variant \(ca.gov\)](#)
- [Vaccine Resources and Guidance \(SanDiegoCounty.gov\)](#)

Thank you for your participation.

CAHAN San Diego

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