



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

Date: March 27, 2023

From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory Update #61: COVID-19 Vaccine Update: Bivalent Boosters for Children 6 Months to 4 Years Old Who Have Completed the three-dose Pfizer-BioNTech Primary Series

Key Messages

- On March 14, 2023, FDA authorized bivalent Pfizer-BioNTech (Pfizer) COVID-19 boosters to be given 8 weeks after completing their 3-dose Pfizer primary series for children 6 months to 4 years of age.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated vaccine eligibility criteria to include this group, as has the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).
- The Pfizer bivalent booster should continue to be substituted for the 3rd dose for children 6 months to 4 years of age, completing the 3-dose Pfizer series.
- Children who have already received a bivalent booster are not eligible for a second bivalent booster at this time.

Situation

Following thorough evaluation and analysis of safety and effectiveness data, federal agencies have expanded eligibility for the Pfizer bivalent booster to include children 6 months to 4 years of age who have already completed their 3-dose Pfizer primary series with only the monovalent vaccine.

Approval Process

Children 6 months to 4 years of age who had already completed their 3-dose Pfizer monovalent primary series were excluded. Children in this age group that were starting the 3-dose Pfizer primary series were authorized to have a bivalent booster substituted for the 3rd dose. On March 14, 2023, FDA [authorized a bivalent Pfizer COVID-19 booster](#) for children in this group to be given at least 2 months after completing the Pfizer primary series. On March 16, 2023, CDC updated the [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) expanding eligibility to this group. That same day, CDPH updated the [COVID-19 bivalent booster eligibility](#) criteria accordingly.

Vaccine Administration

- Children 6 months to 4 years of age who have completed their 3-dose Pfizer monovalent primary series may receive a bivalent Pfizer COVID-19 at least 2 months after completing the primary series.
- Children 6 months to 4 years of age starting the Pfizer primary series should have a Pfizer bivalent booster substituted for the 3rd dose.
- CDC recommends that children 4 and under should receive a booster of the same mRNA vaccine product as their primary series.
- Children who have already received a bivalent booster are not eligible for a second bivalent booster at this time.

- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) supports co-administration of COVID-19 vaccines with routine childhood and adolescent immunizations to ensure pediatric patients get caught up and remain up-to-date on recommended vaccines.

Actions Requested

1. **Booster** children 6 months to 4 years of age who have completed the 3-dose monovalent Pfizer primary series with the bivalent Pfizer booster 2 months after completion of the primary series.
2. **Substitute** the Pfizer bivalent booster for the 3rd dose in the 3-dose Pfizer primary series when children 6 months to 4 years of age begin the Pfizer primary series.
3. **Co-administer** routine childhood and adolescent vaccines with COVID-19 vaccine to avoid missed opportunities to keep children up-to-date with all recommended 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

- [Healthcare Provider Fact Sheet, Pfizer Vaccine 6 month to 4 years of age | FDA](#)
- [Fact Sheet for Recipients/Caregivers on Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 6 Months to 4 Years | FDA \(Spanish\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine eligibility | CDPH \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Health Advisory Update #59: COVID-19 Bivalent Booster Eligibility Expanded Down to 6 Months of Age | CoSD](#)

Thank you for your participation.

CAHAN San Diego

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