



05/24/2022

TO: Illinois COVID-19 Vaccine Providers

FROM: IDPH Immunization Section

DATE: May 24, 2022

SUBJECT: CDC Updates COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Recommendations

On Thursday, May 19, 2022, CDC updated its recommendations for COVID-19 vaccine booster doses to include children ages 5-11. Additionally, CDC strengthened its recommendation of a second COVID-19 vaccine booster dose for immunocompromised individuals ages 12 and older and adults 50 years of age and older.

On Tuesday, May 17, 2022, the FDA authorized a booster dose of the Pfizer mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine for children ages 5-11. On Friday, May 20, 2022, CDC updated its recommendations to include a single booster dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for this age group.

- The updated EUA expands the eligibility of a single vaccine booster dose to younger children.
- CDC's recommendation is that children ages 5 to 11 should get a Pfizer COVID-19 booster dose **at least five months after second primary series dose.**
- Children ages 5-11 who are immunocompromised should receive a third primary dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine at least four weeks after their second primary series dose **and** a booster dose at **least three months after the third primary series dose for a total of four doses.**

The strengthened recommendations for an additional COVID-19 vaccine booster dose for immunocompromised individuals ages 12 and older and all adults ages 50 and older reflect CDC's previous guidelines. The updated guidance recommends:

- Individuals **ages 50 and older should** receive second booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine at least four months after the first booster dose.
- Individuals ages **12 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should receive 2 booster doses.** The first booster dose should be administered at least 3 months after completion of the primary series and the second at least 4 months after the first booster dose, for a total of 5 doses.
 - For children ages 12-17, only the Pfizer mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine may be used.
 - For adults ages 18 and older, either the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine may be used.

CDC Director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky states, “With cases increasing, it is important that all people have the protection they need, which is why, today, CDC has also strengthened another booster recommendation. Those 50 and older and those who are 12 and older and immunocompromised should get a second booster dose.”

See CDC’s media statement [here](#).

See the FDA’s full statement [here](#).

See the FDA’s updated EUA information [here](#).

Providers should be aware that the Illinois Department of Public Health always supports and adopts the CDC’s Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States and providers may follow those recommendations as soon as they are published on that webpage.

See CDC’s Interim Clinical Considerations [here](#).

For questions or concerns, please contact dph.immunizations@illinois.gov.