

Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine – CDC recommends booster dose in 5 – 11 years of age

- On May 19, 2022, the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) recommended a single booster dose of [Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#) for persons 5 to 11 years of age at least 5 months after the primary series under the FDA's emergency use authorization (EUA).
 - The ACIP vote was 11 for the recommendation; 1 against the recommendation; and one abstention.
 - This recommendation follows closely after the [FDA announced](#) an expanded EUA for a single booster dose to individuals 5 to 11 years of age at least 5 months after completion of a primary series with Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, on May 17, 2022.
 - This expands the use of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine as a booster which was previously indicated only for individuals 12 years and older.
 - At this time, only the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and recommended for children aged 5 to 11 years.
- The ACIP considered that vaccine efficacy is high against the delta variant but is impacted by the omicron variant and a booster dose in adolescents 5 to 11 years of age is likely to provide additional protection. Regarding safety, currently available data did not suggest safety concerns beyond those previously identified in older age groups. ACIP believed that the myocarditis rates after a booster dose is likely lower than what is seen after a second dose.
 - Based on these issues and considering the context of the current pandemic, the ACIP recommended that individuals 5 to 11 years of age should receive a booster dose.
 - The ACIP also acknowledged that the top priority remains encouraging unvaccinated individuals to get vaccinated.
- Additional information on COVID-19 boosters can be found on the CDC website [here](#).

What's next:

- The CDC Director must review and approve the ACIP recommendations before they become official, and this is expected to occur soon after today's meeting.