



Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine – CDC recommends boosters in 12 – 15 year olds

- On January 5, 2022, the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) recommended a single [Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#) booster dose for persons aged 12 – 15 years at least 5 months after primary series under the FDA's emergency use authorization (EUA).
 - This recommendation follows closely after the [FDA announced](#) an expanded EUA for a single booster dose to individuals 12 years of age and older who have completed a primary series with Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine or Comirnaty® (COVID-19 vaccine, mRNA) on January 3, 2022.
 - This expands the use of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine as a booster which was previously indicated only for individuals 16 years and older.
- In addition, on January 4, 2022, the [CDC recommended](#) the following:
 - People can receive a booster shot, shortening the interval from 6 months to 5 months for those who received the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. The booster interval recommendation for people who received the J&J vaccine (2 months) or the Moderna vaccine (6 months), has not changed.
 - Moderately or severely immunocompromised 5 –11 year olds receive an additional primary dose of vaccine 28 days after their second shot (3 doses total to complete the primary series). At this time, only the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and recommended for children aged 5 -11.
 - The FDA approved an expanded EUA for these indications on January 3, 2022.
- 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 12 – 15 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 12 – 15 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.



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