



Pfizer/BioNTech COVID vaccine – CDC’s ACIP votes to recommend vaccine for children 5–11 years of age

- On November 2, 2021, the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s \(CDC’s\) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) met to discuss the updated emergency use authorization (EUA) for [Pfizer/BioNTech’s COVID-19 vaccine](#) in children 5-11 years of age, which was revised on October 29, 2021.
 - The recommended dose of Pfizer/BioNTech’s COVID-19 vaccine for individuals 5-11 years of age is two doses of 10 mcg (0.2 mL) given intramuscularly (IM) 21 days apart.
 - The Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for individuals 5-11 years of age is supplied in a multiple dose vial with an orange cap and a label with an orange border.
- While considering the overall risk vs benefit of COVID-19 vaccination in children, the ACIP mentioned the following:
 - In children 5-11 years of age, there have been [1.9 million cases of COVID-19](#) reported with >8,300 cases hospitalized.
 - Approximately one-third of children 5–11 years of age have required ICU admission.
 - In addition, COVID-19-related multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) is most frequent in children 5-11 years of age, and post-COVID conditions have been reported in children.
- ACIP discussed epidemiology of COVID-19 in this age group, effectiveness and safety of the vaccine in this age group, and implementing a vaccine pediatric program.
 - The ACIP felt the benefits of the vaccine outweighed any risks in children 5-11 years of age.
- After extensive discussion, ACIP voted unanimously in favor of vaccination with Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (2-doses, 10 mcg, IM) for children 5–11 years of age, under an EUA.
 - These recommendations are for the initial primary series of two doses and does not include additional doses for immunocompromised individuals or boosters
 - Additional information about immunocompromised children and booster doses will be presented to the ACIP when the data is available.
- The CDC’s Director officially accepted the ACIP’s recommendations shortly after the meeting on November 2.

What’s Next:

- The [government will begin sending out supplies](#) of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 pediatric vaccine. The vaccine program for children is expected to be at full strength beginning November 8, 2021.



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