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NEW MEXICO HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) ALERT

CDC and FDA Approve Pfizer-BioNTech COVID19 Vaccine booster for children ages 16-17

December 9, 2021

Background

On December 9, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expanded the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to include booster doses for individuals 16 years of age and older. Previously, boosters were approved only for those 18 years of age and older.

The CDC also expanded its COVID-19 booster recommendation to include 16 – 17 year olds. The New Mexico Medical Advisory Team (MAT) reviewed and concurred with the FDA and CDC's recommendations for boosters for children ages 16 - 17 with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID19 Vaccine.

Recommendations for Clinicians

- A single booster dose is now recommended for individuals ages 16 -17 years of age who have completed a primary series with Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine or COMIRNATY.
- The booster dose is to be administered at least six months after completion of the primary series.
- The booster dose for people 16 years and older is the same formulation and dosage strength as the Pfizer primary series.
- Teens 16 – 17 years old can only get a **Pfizer** booster.
- Adults 18 years and older can get a booster dose of any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the US.

Safety Considerations¹:

- Potential risks of a Pfizer booster dose include the rare risks of myocarditis and pericarditis. Based on vaccine safety data, the group at highest risk for myocarditis and pericarditis is males aged 12-29 years.
- CDC currently advises people who develop myocarditis or pericarditis after a dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine to not receive a subsequent dose of any COVID-19 vaccine. However, an additional dose can be considered in certain circumstances after consideration of benefits and risks (such as increased risk for COVID19, high community transmission and timing of immunomodulatory therapies).
- The risk of myocarditis or pericarditis associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection is greater than the risk of myocarditis or pericarditis occurring after receipt of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents and adults.

The Rational for Boosters²

¹ [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)

² [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots | CDC](#)

- Although COVID-19 vaccination remains effective in preventing severe disease, recent data suggest vaccinations become less effective over time.
- Data from clinical trials showed that a booster shot increased the immune response in trial participants who finished an mRNA vaccine 6 months earlier or who received a J&J/Janssen single-dose vaccine 2 months earlier.
- Early data from South Africa suggest increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant and the potential for immune evasion.

Access to Boosters for Children ages 16 - 17 in New Mexico

- New Mexico COVID-19 vaccine providers can start providing Pfizer COVID-19 boosters to patients ages 16 - 17 immediately.
- The statewide registration app now allows booster appointment scheduling for children ages 16 - 17. Parents and guardians can visit vaccinenm.org/kids to schedule booster doses.
- We recognize that not all providers or patients use the registration app. People can schedule either through usual methods with their medical team or through the registration app. Parents and guardians will also be able to find vaccine appointments on the CDC vaccine finder website: [Vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov) - [Find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you](https://vaccines.gov).

Additional Resources:

1. Updated CDC page on boosters: [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/downloads/p/2022-03-15-covid-19-boosters.html)
2. EUA for Vaccine Providers: [Healthcare Providers for 12 years of age and older, purple cap \(must dilute\) \(fda.gov\)](https://www.fda.gov/oc/2022/03/15/euad-2022-0014-covid-19-vaccine-providers)
3. EUA for Recipients and Caregivers: [Recipients and Caregivers 12 years of age and older \(fda.gov\)](https://www.fda.gov/oc/2022/03/15/euad-2022-0014-covid-19-vaccine-recipients)
4. Full clinical recommendations will be posted on the CDC website in the coming days: [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/downloads/p/2022-03-15-covid-19-vaccine-recommendations.html)
5. For clinicians wishing to register to administer COVID-19 vaccine, please contact the New Mexico Department of Health Immunization Team at covid.vaccines@state.nm.us or register online at TakeCareNM.com: [For Providers | NMDOH \(rtscustomer.com\)](https://www.takecarenm.com)

New Mexico Health Alert Network: To register for the New Mexico Health Alert Network, click the following link to go directly to the HAN registration page <https://nm.readyop.com/fs/4cjZ/10b2> Please provide all information requested to begin receiving important health alerts and advisories.

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