



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

Date: November 5, 2021

From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory Update #43: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Update: Pfizer Vaccine Age Indication

Key Messages

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have approved the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for use in 5–11-year-olds using a different formulation containing 10 µg of antigen in 0.2 mL. The primary series for this group requires two doses spaced 21 days apart.
- A Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) was held on November 4, 2021 detailing the new ACIP recommendations for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in children 5–11 years old and will be made available [here](#).

Situation

Federal agencies have met during the past week to review the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and recommended its use in children 5 through 11 years of age.

Approval Process

Federal

On October 29, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted [EUA for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to children 5 years through 11 years of age](#). The FDA reported immune responses of children in this age group were comparable to those of 16 through 25 year olds. In addition, the vaccine was found to be 90.7% effective in preventing COVID-19 in children 5 through 11. The vaccine's safety was studied in approximately 3,100 children age 5 through 11 years who received the vaccine and no serious side effects have been detected in the ongoing study.

The Independent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [reviewed the safety, immunogenicity, and efficacy data on the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine on November 2, 2021](#). ACIP recommended the use of the COVID-19 vaccine for children in this same age group.

Western States and California

The Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup also met on November 2 and [unanimously concluded that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is safe and effective for youth 5 to 11 years of age](#). On the morning of November 3, the Workgroup provided its [confirmation](#) to the Governors of California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. The California Department of Public Health followed with the announcement that the COVID-19 vaccination appointments for children 5–11 years of age will be available Thursday on the state's MyTurn web site. California has been allocated 1.2 million pediatric doses from the federal government to begin vaccination of its 3.5 million population in this age group. There is an adequate supply to vaccinate all newly eligible Californians. San Diego has over 322,000 children in this age group.

COVID-19 Demographics in Children

In San Diego County, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic through November 2, 2021, there have been 372,709 total confirmed cases. Of these, 10,470 (2.8%) cases were in children 0–4 years old; 21,034 (5.6%) cases in children 5–11 years old; and 23,395 (6.3%) cases in children 12–17 years old. There was one death among the 5–11 year olds. Children 5–11 years old comprise 9.3% of the county’s population.

Since July 1, 2021, there has been a higher percentage of cases among children 5–11 years old. Specifically, there have been 8,467 (9.5%) cases in this age group out of the 89,354 total confirmed cases in the County during this time.* In comparison, there have been 3,469 (3.9%) cases in children 0–4 years old and 6,760 (7.6%) cases in 12–17 year olds. There have been no deaths among children (0–17 year olds) since July 1, 2021.

*Note: Illness onsets were on or after July 1, 2021. If illness onset date was unavailable, specimen collection date, date of date, or date reported was used instead.

Communication and Outreach

CDC updated their [clinical considerations page](#) and will be releasing a *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR) detailing the ACIP recommendations for this age group. A recording of CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) on use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in children held on November 4, 2021 will be available [here](#).

CDC has developed a [Pediatric Healthcare Professionals COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkit](#) to assist in the messaging to parents/guardians about the importance of COVID-19 vaccination and assuring them that [COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective](#).

Vaccine Administration

The Pfizer COVID-19 pediatric vaccine, for the 5–11 year old age group, will be offered under an emergency use authorization, the same authorization given to the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines for persons 18 years and older and the Pfizer vaccine for children 12–15 years old. Pfizer’s vaccine has full federal approval for people ages 16 and above under the vaccine name Comirnaty.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) [supports co-administration of COVID-19 vaccine](#) with routine childhood and adolescent immunizations to catch children up on any missed vaccine. ACIP also [supports co-administration](#).

Actions Requested

1. If not already enrolled, pediatric providers can listen to the recorded webinar on [how to enroll in the California COVID-19 vaccination program](#) and participate in COVID-19 vaccination.
2. Remain up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccine [clinical considerations including contraindications and precautions](#).
3. Providers supplied with Pfizer vaccine should consider coadministration of routine childhood and adolescent vaccines with COVID-19 vaccine to catch children up on any missed vaccines.
4. Report vaccine-related adverse events and deaths, as well as vaccine administration errors to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#), and to the County Immunization Program at IZINFO.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov or Fax: (619) 692-5677.

Resources

- [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Pfizer Vaccine to Children 5-11 Years \(FDA.gov\)](#)
- [Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers about Pfizer Vaccine for Children 5-11 Years \(FDA.gov\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children 5-11 Years Old | CDC](#)
- [Pediatric Healthcare Professionals COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkit | CDC](#)
- [Administration Overview for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine | CDC](#)
- [Vaccine Resources and Guidance \(SanDiegoCounty.gov\)](#)

Thank you for your participation.

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