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**Sent:** Thursday, January 6, 2022 9:18 AM

**Subject:** CDC Expands Booster Shot Eligibility and Strengthens Recommendations for 12-17 Year Olds



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**January 6, 2022**

*This communication is being sent to all key contacts at provider organizations administering COVID-19 vaccine— please read this message in its entirety. Please feel free to share it with others in your organization who may benefit from the update. Note that all of our communications are archived on our [web site](#).*

Dear Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is endorsing the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation to expand eligibility of booster doses to those 12 to 15 years old. **CDC now recommends that adolescents age 12 to 17 years old should receive a booster shot 5 months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series.**

Data show that COVID-19 boosters help broaden and strengthen protection against Omicron and other SARS-CoV-2 variants. ACIP reviewed the available safety data following the administration of over 25 million vaccine doses in adolescents; COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.

**At this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and recommended for adolescents aged 12-17.**

The press release can be found [here](#).

This recommendation follows updates from CDC earlier this week to recommend the following:

- People who received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine as their primary series are recommended to get a booster after 5 months instead of 6 months.
- Moderately or severely immunocompromised 5–11 year-olds should receive an additional primary dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine 28 days after their second shot.

Additionally, CDC is updating its webpage today to align with standard language CDC uses about other vaccinations, CDC will now use the phrase “up to date” when talking about COVID-19 vaccination.

**CDC recommends that individuals stay “up to date” by receiving any additional doses they are eligible for**, according to CDC’s recommendations, to ensure they have optimal

protection against COVID-19. The technical definition of “fully vaccinated” – two doses of an mRNA vaccine or one dose of the J&J vaccine – has not changed. Individuals are considered fully vaccinated once they have received their primary series.

**This change will be reflected on CDC webpages today.** The following link will reflect this change when updated: [When You've Been Fully Vaccinated | CDC](#).

We will share more information as it becomes available. Thank you for everything you are doing to keep Connecticut residents safe and healthy!

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