

From: CTDPHHealth_Alert_Network@ct.gov <noreply@everbridge.net>

Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 7:30 PM

Subject: Expanded COVID-19 Booster Recommendation to Children 5-11 Years of Age, May 19, 2022



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Expanded COVID-19 Booster Recommendation to Children 5-11 Years of Age May 19, 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 our communications are archived on our web site.

Dear Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

Earlier this week the [Food & Drug Administration \(FDA\) expanded the eligibility for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine single booster dose to children 5 through 11 years of age](#) at least five months after completion of a primary series with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Subsequently the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met this afternoon to issue the below recommendation; meeting and presentation materials are available [here](#). CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky accepted those recommendations and released a [statement](#).

CDC now recommends that children ages 5 through 11 years should receive a booster shot 5 months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series. Since the pandemic began, more than 4.8 million children ages 5 through 11 have been diagnosed with COVID-19, 15,000 have been hospitalized and, tragically, over 180 have died. As cases increase across the country, a booster dose will safely help restore and enhance protection against severe disease.

At this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and recommended for children aged 5 through 11.

COVID-19 vaccine providers in Connecticut may begin administration of booster doses in line with the FDA emergency use authorization and CDC recommendations.

In addition, CDC strengthened its recommendation that those 12 and older who are immunocompromised and those 50 and older should receive a second booster dose at least 4 months after their first. Over the past month we have seen steady increases in cases, with a steep and substantial increase in hospitalizations for older Americans.

Whether it is your first booster, or your second, if you haven't had a vaccine dose since the beginning of December 2021 and you are eligible, now is the time to get one.

With the expanded eligibility for boosters, we want to encourage everyone eligible across Connecticut to receive a COVID-19 booster. Here are some things you can do to support vaccination in our state:

- Give a strong provider recommendation to patients and parents/guardians; resources can be found [here](#).
- Please support our outreach efforts – reach out to your patients and communities! The Public Health Communications Collaborative's Updated toolkit on [COVID-19 Booster Dose Messaging and Outreach Tools may be helpful in these endeavors](#).
- Please make sure your clinic listings remain up to date on [gov](#), and if you accept “all comers”, that you are listed as a public site so that your clinic is searchable on the site by the public.
- If you are able, please increase your capacity to provide vaccines, by hosting additional clinics, engaging vaccinators, etc., and reach out to the Immunization Program if there's anything we can do to help!
- Remember if you want to refer patients out for COVID-19 vaccination, information is on our web site [here](#).

Thank you for all your ongoing work and support of our COVID-19 vaccine roll-out in Connecticut.

For the CT DPH Immunization Program, visit: [Contact Us](#)

For the COVID-19 webpage, visit: [COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#)

If you would like to unsubscribe from these communications, please send an email to Dph.immunizations@ct.gov with the subject line “Unsubscribe from COVID-19 Program communications”.