



**To: CAHAN San Diego Participants**

**Date: May 24, 2022**

**From: Public Health Services**

**Health Advisory Update #53: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Update: Pfizer Booster 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 boosters for 5- to 11-year-olds.
- The booster dose is the same formulation (0.2 mL, orange cap) as the primary two-dose primary series and can be given five months after the completion of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine primary series.
- This age group currently has the lowest primary series coverage among vaccine eligible children in San Diego.

#### **Situation**

This week federal agencies met to review the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and recommended a single booster for 5- to 11-year-olds who completed their primary COVID-19 vaccine series.

#### **Approval Process**

##### ***Federal***

On May 17, 2022, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expanded [eligibility for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to include a single booster dose for individuals 5- to 11-years of age](#). The FDA has determined that the known and potential benefits of a single booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for children 5- through 11-years of age at least five months after completing a primary series [outweigh its known and potential risks](#) and that a booster dose can help provide continued protection against COVID-19 in this and older age groups.

On May 19, 2022, following a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) expanded the [eligibility](#) of COVID-19 vaccine booster doses to everyone 5 years of age and older. In addition, the CDC strengthened its recommendation that those 12 years and older who are immunocompromised and those 50 and older should receive a second booster dose at least 4 months after their first booster.

##### ***Western States and California***

The Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup also met on May 19, 2022. [The Workgroup then issued a joint statement](#) with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) strongly supporting CDC's recommendations and encouraging parents and guardians of 5- to 11-year-olds to have their children complete their primary series and receive a booster shot if they are at least five months past the last dose of their Pfizer vaccination series.

#### **Vaccine Administration**

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine booster dose is authorized under the same emergency use authorization originally given for persons 18 years and older. Pfizer's vaccine has full federal approval of the primary series for people ages 16 and

above under than vaccine name Comirnaty. This booster dose for children 5- to 11-years of age is the same formulation (0.2 mL, orange cap) as the primary series and can be given no earlier than five months after the completion of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine primary series. The booster can be co-administered with other vaccines including those in the pediatric vaccine schedule. 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. Routine pediatric vaccine coverage [rates declined during the pandemic](#).

## Vaccination Status in San Diego County

Currently, only [36% of children 5- to 11-year-olds](#) completed the COVID-19 primary series compared to 76% of 12- to 17-year-olds. From January 1, 2022, through May 14, 2022, there were [60 laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in 6- to 11-year-olds](#) compared to 40 among 12- to 17-year-olds. Vaccination is the best way to prevent severe outcomes. Vaccination also reduces the risk of [Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children \(MIS-C\)](#). MIS-C is characterized by prolonged post-SARS-CoV-2 infection effects. MIS-C can follow COVID-19 of any severity, including mild infections. [Ninety-eight cases of MIS-C have been confirmed](#) in San Diego County residents.

## Scheduling

MyTurn.ca.gov is currently being updated to reflect the expanded eligibility. Parents and guardians are encouraged to check with their child's health care provider to schedule their booster appointment.

## Actions Requested

1. If not already enrolled, 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 co-administration 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](mailto:IZINFO.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov) or Fax: (619) 692-5677.

## Resources

- [Pfizer Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers for 5-11 years of age, orange cap \(must dilute\) | FDA](#)
- [Recipients and Caregivers 5-11 years of age | FDA](#)
- [Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)
- [Pediatric Healthcare Professionals COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkit | CDC](#)
- [Administration Overview for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine | CDC](#)
- [Vaccine Resources and Guidance | County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency](#)

Thank you for your participation.

## CAHAN San Diego

County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency  
Phone: (619) 692-8499; Fax: (858) 715-6458  
E-mail: [cahan@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:cahan@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
Public Website: <http://www.cahansandiego.com>

Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch  
Urgent Phone for pm/weekends/holidays: (858) 565-5255  
Secure Website: <https://member.everbridge.net>