



**TO:** West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and Other Healthcare Facilities

**FROM:** Ayne Amjad, MD, MPH, Commissioner and State Health Officer  
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health

**DATE:** November 3, 2021

**LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:** Please distribute to community health providers, hospital-based physicians, infection control preventionists, laboratory directors and other applicable partners.

**OTHER RECIPIENTS:** Please distribute to association members, staff, etc.

On November 2, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) endorsed the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendation that children 5 to 11 years old be vaccinated against COVID-19 with the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine. Data evaluated showed immune responses of children 5 through 11 years of age were comparable to those individuals 16 through 25 years of age. In addition, the vaccine was found to be 90.7% effective in preventing COVID-19 in children 5 through 11 and no serious side effects have been reported.

While COVID-19 tends to be milder in children compared with adults, it can make children very sick and cause children to be hospitalized, and in some situations, the complications from infection can lead to death. Children with underlying medical conditions are more at-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 than compared with children without underlying medical conditions. Children who become sick with COVID-19 can also develop serious complications like multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C). The benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks.

### COVID-19 Vaccine Dosage and Administration

- Children should receive the age-appropriate vaccine formulation regardless of their size or weight.
- The Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric COVID-19 vaccine is supplied in a multiple dose vial with an **orange cap** and label with an **orange border**, is administered, **after dilution with 1.3mL**, as a primary series of 2 doses (**0.2 mL each**).
- The formulation for children 5 to 11 years is a 2-dose vaccination series, given intramuscularly, recommended at least **3 weeks (21 days) apart**.
- The [emergency use authorization fact sheet for providers](#) should be reviewed thoroughly before initiating the start of vaccinations for children 5 to 11 years old. The [emergency use authorization fact sheet for recipients and caregivers](#) must be provided to parents.
- For additional information on the COVID-19 vaccines, visit the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy website at: <https://www.wvbop.com/>.

For questions about this advisory, contact the Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services (OEPS) at 1-800-423-1271, ext. 1; 304-558-5358, ext. 2; or the 24/7 answering service at 304-342-5151.