



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**

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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.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) endorsed three recommendations made this week by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine guidance. The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health encourages all providers to review the following Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine guidance updates to ensure the best possible protection for all West Virginians.

Additional Primary Dose for Certain Immunocompromised Children

Children aged 5-11 years who are moderately to severely immunocompromised should receive an additional primary dose vaccine 28 days after their second shot. At this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and recommended for children aged 5-11 years. Parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss their child’s medical condition with their child’s pediatrician/primary care provider, and whether getting an additional primary shot is appropriate for them.

Children are considered to be [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#) if they have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress the immune response

Pfizer Booster Interval Shortened to 5 Months

The time interval for when individuals can receive a booster shot has been shortened from 6 months to 5 months for people who received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. This means that individuals can now receive an mRNA booster shot 5 months after completing their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series. The booster interval recommendation for people who received the J&J/Janssen vaccine (2 months) or the Moderna vaccine (6 months), has not changed.

Pfizer Booster Shot Eligibility Expanded to 12 to 15-year-olds

CDC expanded the eligibility of the booster doses to those 12 to 15 years old. Data shows that COVID-19 boosters help broaden and strengthen protection against Omicron and other SARS-CoV-2 variants. CDC now recommends all adolescents aged 12-17 years **should** receive a COVID-19 booster 5 months after completing their primary series of Pfizer vaccine.

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.