



**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:** May 20, 2022

**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 May 19, 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 should receive a COVID-19 booster five months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine series.

Based on data reviewed by ACIP from other age groups, COVID-19 vaccine boosters have been shown to increase protection against all outcomes in those aged 12 years and older and that it is likely that children 5-11 years would benefit from a COVID-19 booster dose. Providing a booster dose can increase protection from waning immunity resulting in reduction of COVID-19 infection and severe disease among children 5 to 11 years. Additionally for each age, myocarditis after booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines is lower than after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose in primary series. As cases have been increasing across West Virginia, a booster dose will safely help restore and enhance protection against severe disease.

### COVID-19 Booster Dosage and Administration

- It is now recommended that children 5-11 years **should receive** a booster dose at least five months after receipt of primary series of the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine.
- 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**.
- The [emergency use authorization fact sheet for providers](#) has been updated and **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.

**In addition, CDC now recommends that everyone 12 years and old who are immunocompromised and those 50 years and older should received a second booster at least four months after their first booster.**

Visit the [WV COVID-19 Vaccination Due Date Calculator](#), a free, online tool that helps people figure out when they may be due for a COVID-19 shot, making it easier to stay up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccination.

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.

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This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

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