**NEW MEXICO HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) ALERT**

**CDC and FDA Approve Pfizer-BioNTech COVID19 Vaccine for children ages 5 through 11**

November 2, 2021

**Background**

On November 2, 2021, the CDC Director endorsed the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices’ (ACIP) recommendation that children 5 to 11 years old be vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric COVID19 vaccine. This recommendation follows the FDA emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children 5-11 years of age on October 29, 2021.

The New Mexico Medical Advisory Team reviewed and concurred with the FDA and CDC’s recommendations for vaccination of all children ages 5 through 11 with the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric COVID19 Vaccine two-dose primary series.

**Recommendations for Clinicians**

* Pfizer-BioNTech COVID19 Vaccine for children ages 5 through 11 is a new formulation of the Pfizer vaccine and is supplied in a multidose vial with an orange cap. The vaccine requires dilution with 1.3 ml of diluent.
* **Adult (purple cap) and pediatric (orange cap) formulations of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines are NOT interchangeable.**
* Pediatric Pfizer Vaccine is approved as a primary series of 2 doses (10 µg/0.2ml each) given 21 days apart in individuals 5 through 11 years of age. The adult dose is 30 µg.
* All children ages 5-11, including those with underlying conditions and previous COVID infection, are recommended to get vaccinated.
* The dosage/formulation given should be based on the child’s age on the day of vaccination. If a child turns 12 after the first dose and before their second dose, they should receive the adult dose (purple cap) for the second shot.

**Safety Considerations:**

* Systemic and local reactions were *less severe* in the 5-11 cohort compared to older children and adolescents1.
* No cases of myocarditis or pericarditis were reported in the clinical trial for children ages 5–11 years (n=3,082), although the study was not powered to assess the risk of myocarditis[[1]](#footnote-1). Of note, the baseline risk of myocarditis is much higher in adolescents ages 12–17 years compared to children ages 5–11 years.
* There have been no deaths related to myocarditis from the COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents and adults.

**Additional Provider Information:**

* This and other COVID-19 vaccines may be co-administered with other vaccines on the same day, as well as within 14 days of each other.
* Pediatric Pfizer vaccine can be stored in the refrigerator for 10 weeks.

**Access to Vaccine for Children ages 5 -11 in New Mexico**

* New Mexico COVID-19 vaccine providers can start providing the pediatric Pfizer COVID19 vaccine to patients ages 5 – 11 immediately. However, many providers have not yet received their vaccine supply. Shipments are arriving over the next week.
* NM will follow all recommendations in the EUA and from ACIP:

EUA for Vaccine Providers (<https://www.fda.gov/media/153714/download>)

EUA for Recipients and Caregivers (<https://www.fda.gov/media/153717/download>)

* Children ages 5 - 11 are encouraged to schedule vaccine with their PCP or pharmacy provider.
* The statewide registration app allows for registration of children ages 5 – 11. Parents and guardians can visit [vaccinenm.org/kids](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fr20.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001AFYg1PVrNrUTXZ1HgvPPGlUjk7UzF3wbhPAJwLuIFDBuLtnhXoGa6KM841LLnaJlIKzX0geH7VUUitzXrHrfcCDFck0Sp0o7zKnif5HtW6NuJ1xvMY9gpG2nyqABz4CPpmULwNyVhXN9Bf3MAMEBnJ6aT8ls-QUNPwdMLwElavg%3D%26c%3DSKJ13pLLoc5uoCj0-zY0e86MWiJ75qbHv6-amQlFsoYnUH-umyJpow%3D%3D%26ch%3DrWAW6UG1ZEdf57CgrIDcCquznn6iZaauO-MlkFmguLoMN3QDR-T7gg%3D%3D&data=04%7C01%7Cmirandah.durham%40state.nm.us%7Cf343c90f1c324e2eea1208d99e14f48b%7C04aa6bf4d436426fbfa404b7a70e60ff%7C0%7C0%7C637714635118607933%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Xjc1YUxBn3ROtkuVOPG9QqeQQLjY8jUkO35oeYSS2Cs%3D&reserved=0) to add dependents to their existing vaccine scheduling profile. Scheduling for children ages 5 – 11 is now open.
* We recognize that not all providers or patients use the registration app. People can schedule either through usual methods with their medical team or through the registration app. Parents and guardians will also be able to find vaccine appointments on the CDC vaccine finder website in the coming days: [Vaccines.gov - Find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you](https://www.vaccines.gov/).

**Additional Resources:**

1. Updated CDC page on vaccines for children: [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/children-teens.html).
2. Full clinical recommendations will be posted on the CDC website in the coming days: [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html)
3. For clinicians wishing to register to administer COVID-19 vaccine, please contact the New Mexico Department of Health Immunization Team at **covid.vaccines@state.nm.us** or register online at TakeCareNM.com: [For Providers | NMDOH (rtscustomer.com)](https://getthefacts-cf.rtscustomer.com/take-care-nm/for-providers/)

***New Mexico Health Alert Network: To register for the New Mexico Health Alert Network, click the following link to go directly to the HAN registration page*** [***https://nm.readyop.com/fs/4cjZ/10b2***](https://nm.readyop.com/fs/4cjZ/10b2) ***Please provide all information requested to begin receiving important health alerts and advisories.***

1. https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2021-11-2-3/07-COVID-Woodworth-508.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)