**CDC Expands Booster Shot Eligibility and Strengthens Recommendations for 12-17 Year Olds**

On January 5, CDC endorsed updated recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for the prevention of COVID-19:

·         People 12-17 years old are recommended to receive a booster shot 5 months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series.   At this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and recommended for adolescents aged 12-17 years old.

This recommendation follows updates from CDC earlier this week to recommend the following:

·         People who received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine as their primary series are recommended to get a booster after 5 months instead of 6 months

·         Moderately or severely immunocompromised 5–11 year-olds should receive an additional primary dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine 28 days after their second shot.

The [media statement](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0105-Booster-Shot.html__;!!LIYSdFfckKA!mcgXec1NYUNWmcaviN7CwxszxKpWtaED7jyMTB5KL-w9mt_v_SulQ4HgapuUm8TW2wW-jPLA$) for this recommendation is below.

CDC Expands Booster Shot Eligibility and Strengthens Recommendations for 12-17 Year Olds

**Media Statement**

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, January 5, 2022

Today, CDC is endorsing the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices’ (ACIP) recommendation to expand eligibility of booster doses to those 12 to 15 years old. CDC now recommends that adolescents age 12 to 17 years old should receive a booster shot 5 months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series.

Data show that COVID-19 boosters help broaden and strengthen protection against Omicron and other SARS-CoV-2 variants. ACIP reviewed the available safety data following the administration of over 25 million vaccine doses in adolescents; COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.

At this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and recommended for adolescents aged 12-17.

**The following is attributable to CDC Director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky:**

“It is critical that we protect our children and teens from COVID-19 infection and the complications of severe disease. Today, I endorsed ACIP’s vote to expand eligibility and strengthen our recommendations for booster doses. We now recommend that all adolescents aged 12-17 years should receive a booster shot 5 months after their primary series. This boosterdose will provide optimized protection against COVID-19 and the Omicron variant. I encourage all parents to keep their children up to date with CDC’s COVID-19 vaccine recommendations.

1/7/21