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NH-HAN 20211103



COVID-19 Pandemic, Update # 48 ***Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 5-11 Years Old***

Key Points and Recommendations:

- On October 29th, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized use of the [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) COVID-19 pediatric vaccine (“pediatric vaccine”) in children 5-11 years of age.
 - The pediatric vaccine formulation and packaging is different from the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine authorized for vaccine recipients 12 years of age or older; this includes different instructions for storage, dilution/preparation, and administration.
 - Providers should review the new FDA [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine](#) to children 5-11 years old.
 - Use the new FDA [Vaccine Information Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#) when vaccinating persons 5-11 years old.
 - When screening for vaccine contraindications and precautions, note the ingredients in the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine have been modified (see updated FDA Fact Sheets & CDC’s [Appendix C: Ingredients included in COVID-19 vaccines](#); update to Interim Clinical Considerations are pending).
- On November 2nd, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) unanimously voted to recommend the pediatric vaccine, and CDC has now [recommended](#) that children 5-11 years of age be vaccinated against COVID-19 with the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine.
 - The pediatric vaccine is authorized and recommended for use as a 2-dose primary series with each dose administered 21 days apart; each dose is 10 mcg (0.2 mL after appropriate dilution).
 - Additional 3rd doses for vaccine recipients who are moderately-severely immunocompromised are NOT authorized nor recommended for children 5-11 years old.
 - A 2-dose primary series using the lower 10 mcg vaccine dose has been shown to elicit similar neutralizing antibody titers in children 5-11 years of age when compared to vaccine recipients 16-25 years of age who were vaccinated with the higher 30 mcg dose.
 - Among 5-11 year olds, the vaccine efficacy in preventing laboratory-confirmed symptomatic COVID-19 after a 2-dose primary series was 90.7%.
 - No safety concerns were identified in the pharmaceutical clinical trial, and a lower proportion of vaccine recipients experienced systemic side effects (e.g., fatigue, headache, myalgia, arthralgia, fever) compared to older vaccine recipients who were given the higher 30 mcg dose.

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- Vaccination of children is important to not only protect the child from COVID-19 and associated complications (e.g., MIS-C, hospitalization, death, long-COVID symptoms), but also to protect the family, and help return kids to more normal social, behavioral, and societal functioning (including school and extra-curricular activities).
 - Providers should pay close attention to a person's indication for vaccination and their age to ensure they receive the appropriate vaccine product at the appropriate dose to avoid vaccine administration errors.
 - CDC will update their [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#). Providers should monitor this website for more details and information about CDC's recommendations, including expected updates to all COVID-19 vaccine contraindications and precautions (see vaccine [contraindications and precautions](#) section including [Appendix B](#); updated pending).
 - Primary care providers are strongly encouraged to enroll and become a COVID-19 vaccine provider to help more quickly vaccinate and protect children against COVID-19. More information can be found online for [how to become a COVID-19 vaccine provider](#).
 - People can find vaccination locations (including sites offering a specific COVID-19 vaccine product) at www.vaccines.gov/search.
 - A CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) webinar about pediatric COVID-19 vaccination is scheduled this Thursday November 4th from 2:00 - 3:00 pm and can be accessed online at: https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2021/callinfo_110421.asp.
 - NH Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) **Healthcare Provider and Public Health Partner** webinars have been **re-scheduled to the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month** from 12:00 – 1:00 pm (**next call will be Thursday, November 4th**):
 - Zoom link: <https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/j/94059287404>
 - Call-in phone number: (646) 558-8656
 - Meeting ID: 940 5928 7404
 - Password: 353809

- For any questions regarding this notification, please call the NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496 during business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).
- If you are calling after hours or on the weekend, please call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at (603) 271-5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call.
- To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, please send an email to DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov.

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From: Benjamin P. Chan, MD, MPH; State Epidemiologist
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

Attachments: None