

SECRETARIAL DIRECTIVE ON PEDIATRIC AND SECOND COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTER DOSES

May 23, 2022

Effective May 23, 2022, the Secretarial Directive on Eligibility to Receive Particular COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters dated January 10, 2022 is supplemented with the following:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has determined that, as part of the broad range of prevention and mitigation strategies, vaccines are an important tool to help stop the COVID-19 pandemic. To that end, CDC has continued to consider available science, including SARS-CoV-2 epidemiology, evidence related to the effectiveness of currently available Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccines, and any risks of severe disease, hospitalization, and death to certain populations.

On May 17, 2022, the FDA amended the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to:

- authorize the use of a single booster dose for administration to individuals 5 through 11 years of age at least five months after completion of a primary series with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

On May 19, 2022, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), consistent with the parameters of the EUA issued by FDA, recommended:

- a single Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster dose is recommended for persons ages 5-11 years at least five months after completion of a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine primary series.

On May 19, 2022, the Director of CDC:

- adopted the ACIP recommendation: and
- recommended that individuals age 50 years and over and individuals age 12-49 years with moderate to severe immunocompromise **should** receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine second booster dose at least four months after their first COVID-19 vaccine booster dose. This recommendation replaces an earlier recommendation that such individuals who wish to increase their individual protection **may** receive the second booster dose.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) concurs with CDC's recommendations for administration of a single booster dose to individuals ages 5 through 11 years, and the updated recommendation on administration of a second COVID-19 vaccine booster dose to certain populations.

Accordingly, pursuant to Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. §247d), the Secretary of HHS hereby **DIRECTS** as follows:

As of May 23, 2022, all CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program enrolled providers shall make immediately available and administer, upon request:

- **a single booster dose of the age-appropriate Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to individuals 5-11 years of age at least five months after completion of a primary series with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine; and**
- **in conformance with CDC's updated recommendation that second booster doses should be administered, a second booster dose of the age-appropriate COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna to individuals 50 years of age and older and individuals 12 years through 49 years of age with moderate to severe immunocompromise at least four months after receipt of their first booster dose.**

All CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program enrolled providers must comply with this Directive as specified in updated CDC COVID-19 vaccination provider requirements posted at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/vaccination-provider-support.html>.

This Directive also applies to all awardees and recipients of HHS grant and cooperative agreement funds, including grants to states and U.S. territories that have been awarded to support, implement, and expand COVID-19 vaccination programs nationwide.

This Directive should be read and implemented consistent with other existing direction from HHS and CDC, including the *COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations (Playbook)* guidance document; prior directives from the HHS Secretary and supplements and addenda to vaccine distribution and vaccine prioritization; the CDC Provider Agreement and related guidance; and any workplan, application, jurisdiction vaccination plan, or other submission from an awardee or recipient of CDC grants or cooperative agreements related to COVID-19 vaccine activities. To the extent that this Directive directly conflicts with those documents, this Directive shall be read to replace and supersede those documents.

I thank you for your attention to this matter, as well as for your efforts in the COVID-19 response.

/s/

Xavier Becerra
Secretary