

UPDATE

Cover Sheet

DATE

May 14, 2021

SUBJECT

CDC recommends Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for use in adolescents

INSTRUCTIONS

DISTRIBUTE to your local HAN contacts. This HAN is intended for general sharing of information.

- Time for Forwarding: **As Soon As Possible**
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For LOCAL HEALTH
DEPARTMENT reference only
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more information regarding this HAN,
contact:

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1-406-444-5580

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Categories of Health Alert Messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Information Service: passes along low level priority messages that do not fit other HAN categories and are for informational purposes only.

Please update your HAN contact information on the Montana Public Health Directory

DPHHS HAN

Information Sheet



DATE

May 14, 2021

SUBJECT

CDC recommends Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for use in adolescents

BACKGROUND

On May 10, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expanded the Emergency Use Authorization for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to include individuals aged 12 years and older. On May 12, 2021, CDC's independent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended the use of Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine for people 12 and older and CDC Director accepted those recommendations. COVID-19 Vaccine providers can begin to vaccinate this age group today.

The FDA has updated the Fact Sheets for Healthcare Providers Administering the Vaccine (Vaccination Providers) and for Recipients and Caregivers with information to reflect the use of the vaccine in the adolescent population, including the benefits and risks of the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine. The updated fact sheets can be found at the links under resources below.

On Friday, the ACIP's recommendations will be published in an MMWR and updated clinical considerations will be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>.

COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may now be administered without regard to timing. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines on the same day, as well as co-administration within 14 days. It is unknown whether reactogenicity is increased with coadministration, including with other vaccines known to be more reactogenic, such as adjuvanted vaccines. When deciding whether to co-administer with COVID-19 vaccines, providers should consider whether the patient is behind or at risk of becoming behind on recommended vaccines and the reactogenicity profile of the vaccines.

COVID-19 Vaccine patients who are minors will most likely need a parent or legal guardian's consent to get a vaccine. Providers may refer to Section 41-1-402 of the Montana Code Annotated for more information on the ability of emancipated minors and others who may be able to consent to their own healthcare services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Healthcare Providers

All providers should continue to recommend COVID-19 vaccination all individuals 12+ who are eligible for vaccine to reduce the risk of infection, serious illness or death, as well reduce transmission to others, many of whom may be at increased risk.

If recommending vaccine to individuals age 12-17 and Pfizer vaccine is not readily available in the provider clinic, we recommend consulting with your local public health partners to determine what health care providers are currently able to provide the vaccine or visit covidvaccine.mt.gov¹ for an updated list of providers in your area.

Review the updated *Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering the Vaccine (Vaccination Providers)*².

Review the *Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers*³.

Provide all patients the *Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers*⁴ prior to the administration.

¹ <https://dphhs.mt.gov/covid19vaccine>

² <https://www.fda.gov/media/144413/download>

³ <https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download>

⁴ <https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download>

Local Health Jurisdictions

Continue to work with vaccine providers in the community to monitor vaccine supplies and local efforts to continue to vaccinate anyone who is eligible. To increase COVID-19 vaccination rates in your community, continue the following activities:

- Outreach to large employers, churches, schools and daycare staff, and other congregate settings to offer or facilitate onsite vaccination. DPHHS is requesting, and supporting, on-site vaccination efforts to be fully implemented to reduce barriers to access.
- Offering special hours of COVID-19 vaccination for walk-ins at your clinic. This may help reduce wastage from the larger multi-dose vials.
- Providing educational materials and/or trainings to other local partners on the importance of COVID-19 vaccination in the community.
- Encouraging other vaccine providers, including primary care clinics, to enroll as COVID-19 vaccination providers.
- Work with other community partners to reduce barriers by simplifying processes or assisting with scheduling, transportation, etc. as possible.

Additional Resources

Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Letter of Authorization

<https://www.fda.gov/media/144412/download>