



HEALTH ADVISORY #199

CDC Recommends COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 6 Months through 5 Years

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and Other Healthcare Facilities

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LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: Please distribute to community health providers, hospital-based physicians, infection control preventionists, laboratory directors and other applicable partners.

OTHER RECIPIENTS: Please distribute to association members, staff, etc.

On June 18, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) endorsed the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendation that children ages 6 months through 5 years should receive COVID-19 vaccination. SARS-CoV-2 has caused more than 2 million cases of COVID-19 among children in the United States in this age group. Very young children are at risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and more than half of hospitalized children ages 6 months through 4 years had no underlying health conditions. Data released from the committee, highlights the importance of vaccinating young children with prior infection to prevent both severe disease and hospitalization. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have significant impact on families across West Virginia. At this time, the Bureau for Public Health is recommending everyone 6 months of age and older get vaccinated against the virus that causes COVID-19.

COVID-19 Pfizer-BioNTech Dosage and Administration

- The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 6 months through 4 years is supplied in a multiple dose vial with a **maroon cap and maroon color border** and administered **after dilution with 2.2mL of diluent**, as a primary series of **3 doses (0.2mL injection volume each)**.
- The initial 2 doses are administered 3-8 weeks apart* (*see note below about interval*), followed by a third dose administered at least 8 weeks after the second dose in individuals 6 months through 4 years of age.
- Please review emergency use authorization (EUA) fact sheet for providers regarding individuals who turn from 4 years to 5 years of age between any doses in the primary series for vaccination options.
- Currently, a booster is not authorized for this age group.
- The [EUA fact sheet for providers](#) should be reviewed thoroughly before initiating the start of vaccinations for children 6 months through 4 years. The [EUA fact sheet for recipients and caregivers](#) must be provided to parents.

COVID-19 Moderna Dosage and Administration

- The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 6 months through 5 years is supplied in a multiple dose vial with a **dark blue cap and magenta color border** and administered as **0.25mL** and **does not require a diluent**, as a primary series of **2 doses (0.25mL injection volume each)**.
- The 2-dose primary series should be administered separated by 4-8 weeks* (*see note below about interval*) for individuals 6 months through 5 years of age.

- Currently, a booster is not authorized for this age group.
- For those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised, a third primary series dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is authorized for administration at least 4 weeks following the second dose.
- The [EUA fact sheet for providers](#) **should be reviewed thoroughly before initiating the start of vaccinations for children 6 months through 5 years.** The [EUA fact sheet for recipients and caregivers](#) must be provided to parents.

** Interval note: An **8-week** interval may be optimal for some people ages 6 months through 64 years, especially for males ages 12 through 39 years. A **shorter interval** (3 weeks for Pfizer-BioNTech; 4 weeks for Moderna) between the first and second doses remains the recommended interval for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised; adults ages 65 years and older; and in situations in which there is increased concern about [COVID-19 community levels](#) or an individual's higher risk of severe disease.*

Find a **Just In Time Training** on COVID-19 vaccination for ages 6 months through 5 years, available at <https://bit.ly/C19JITTraining5under>.

Visit the [WV COVID-19 Vaccination Due Date Calculator](#), a free, online tool that helps people figure out when they may be due for a COVID-19 shot and what type(s) of COVID-19 shots they are eligible to receive, making it easier to stay up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccination.

For additional information on the COVID-19 vaccines, including a [tip sheet on preventing vaccine errors](#), visit the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy at <https://www.wvbop.com/>.

For questions about this advisory, contact the Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services (OEPS) at 1-800-423-1271, ext. 1; 304-558-5358, ext. 2; or the 24/7 answering service at 304-342-5151.