



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Medicaid Providers

**FROM:** El Paso Health Plans

**DATE:** November 10, 2021

**RE:** COVID-19 CDC Recommends Pfizer COVID Vaccine for Ages 5-11

On October 19, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to allow for the use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in individuals five to 11 years of age. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices yesterday unanimously recommended that children in that age range be vaccinated against COVID-19 with the Pfizer vaccine. CDC Director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, has [endorsed](#) that recommendation. Providers may begin administration of the vaccine to children five to 11 years of age.

**Pfizer's pediatric vaccine is a different product than its vaccine for adolescents and adults.** Some extremely important points to note about the pediatric vaccine:

- The pediatric vaccine is a multiple dose vial with an orange cap, and it requires dilution.
- It is administered via intramuscular injection as a series of two doses (0.2 mL per dose after dilution) three weeks apart.
- The adolescent/adult Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is supplied with a purple cap and **must not** be used to vaccinate individuals five to 11 years of age.
- More details on storage, preparation and administration are found in the FDA fact sheet: <https://www.fda.gov/media/153714/download>.

Vaccine must be administered in accordance with the FDA's updated EUA. Providers must give all vaccine recipients, or a parent or guardian if the recipient is a minor, the fact sheet for recipients and caregivers prior to vaccination. **Oral or written parental consent is required for vaccination of children in this age group.** The parent or guardian does not need to be present during the child's vaccination once they have provided consent.

Some other important reminders and reporting requirements:

- Only Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine with an **orange cap** vial is currently authorized for immunizing children ages five to 11.
- Other presentations of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines are NOT authorized for people in this age group.



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- All COVID-19 vaccines may be co-administered with other vaccines, including a seasonal influenza vaccine, without any waiting.
- Vaccination providers must report adverse reactions to any vaccine through the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System at [vaers.hhs.gov](https://vaers.hhs.gov).
- Providers should encourage all vaccine recipients or their parents/guardians to consider enrolling in [V-safe](#), CDC's tool that provides health check-ins after someone receives a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Providers are required to report all doses administered to ImmTrac2 daily. Note, race and ethnicity are mandatory to report.

As a reminder, the CDC also recommends booster shots of the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines for [certain groups](#) of people. Eligible people can get a booster of whichever vaccine they choose (mix and match). Please review the [COVID-19 Vaccine Additional and Booster Doses](#) infographic for detailed dosing information.

### Additional Resources:

- Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine 5-11 years of age, orange cap Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/153714/download>
- Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine 5-11 years of age, orange cap Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/153717/download>

If you have any questions regarding this communication please feel free to contact our Provider Relations Department at 915-532-3778.