



## Health Advisory

# COVID-19 Vaccine Update, Including Expansion of Pfizer Vaccine to Ages 12-15 Years

May 17, 2021

*The following information is issued on behalf of the SF COVID Command Center*

### **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine for Ages 12-15 years**

FDA expanded its [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to include persons ages 12-15 years, complete with updated Fact Sheets for Healthcare Providers and for Recipients (5/10/2021). In the [FDA's data summary](#), 12 to 15-year-old subjects receiving the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine experienced similar rates of side effects, benefitted from similar efficacy in preventing laboratory-confirmed COVID-19, and achieved even higher levels of antibody response to the vaccine, compared with 16 to 25-year-old subjects.

CDC's Advisory Committee on Vaccination Practices (ACIP) affirmed the EUA expansion and (5/12/2021) and has issued an [interim recommendation](#) for use of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in persons ages 12-15 years. CDC has also updated its main [COVID-19 vaccination guidance page](#) in relation to the Pfizer-BioNTech EUA expansion. Statements in support of the expanded EUA have been issued by [Western States Scientific Review Workgroup](#) and the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

An SFDPH [sample protocol](#) for administration of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been updated and is available for download. CDC has published a range of [supporting materials](#) as well.

### **Consent for Minors to Receive COVID-19 Vaccination**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccination of the entire population, including minors, is critical to interrupting COVID-19 transmission and reducing morbidity and mortality from COVID-19. In this context, the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) seeks to avoid unnecessary barriers to vaccination while protecting the rights of minors, parents, and guardians. Parents and guardians have multiple options for providing consent for minors to receive a COVID-19 vaccine including signed or verbal consent at the time of vaccination.



Guardians who are unable to be present at the time of vaccination can offer verbal consent by phone or a signed consent document. There are sample consent templates [available here](#).

[SF Health Officer Order C19-19](#) (4/28/2021) allows minors in San Francisco who are age 12 years or older to consent to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. However, the provider: (a) must first reasonably attempt to notify the legally responsible adult (parent or guardian) and allow that adult an opportunity to object to the administration of that dose; and (b) is not authorized under the Order to administer the dose if the legally responsible adult objects. [A guidance document with Q&A](#) has been developed that explains the context, limitations, processes, and workflow associated with obtaining consent for a minor in SF to receive COVID-19 vaccine.

### **Routine Vaccinations, and Concomitant Administration with COVID-19 Vaccine**

[These data](#) as well as additional unpublished data from the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) demonstrate that during the pandemic, **administration of routine vaccinations has declined among both children and adults**. Now, with fewer restrictions on travel and gatherings, re-opening of restaurants and businesses, and the return of in-person education, there are more opportunities for vaccine-preventable diseases to spread.

In addition to completing COVID-19 vaccination series among eligible minors and adults, clinicians and facilities are strongly encouraged to **ensure that patients of all ages are brought up-to-date with routine immunizations**. Interested clinicians can attend a CDPH-sponsored [webinar](#) "Catching Up Routine Vaccines During the Pandemic" 5/26/2021 from 12-1pm Pacific.

CDC has also modified its guidance on co-administration of COVID-19 and other vaccines. Previously, a minimum interval of +/- 14 days was recommended between COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines.

[CDC now states](#) that **COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may be administered without regard to timing**. Additional considerations related to co-administration include the reactogenicity profile of the vaccines. CDC recommends that multiple injection sites should be separated by at least 1 inch, if possible, and that vaccines more likely to cause a local reaction (e.g. tetanus-toxoid-containing and adjuvanted vaccines) should be administered in different limbs, if possible.

### **Become a COVID-19 Vaccination Provider for Your Pediatric Patients**

Under a new effort from CDPH, pediatric and family medicine providers are encouraged to offer Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines for children in their offices, stored at refrigerated or regular frozen temperatures. Providers who are not currently approved in the state COVID vaccine program



system (myCAVax) can apply at <https://mycavax.cdph.ca.gov/s/>. For questions or concerns about becoming a new COVID-19 vaccine provider in San Francisco, please contact the SF COVID Vaccine Supply Team at [CCC-Distribution@sfdph.org](mailto:CCC-Distribution@sfdph.org).

### **Vaccine Vials May be Opened Without Every Dose Being Used**

When supplies of COVID vaccine were extremely limited, providers were encouraged to tightly monitor their inventory and scheduling to keep vaccine wastage to a bare minimum. While it is still the position of CDPH and SFDPH that providers attempt to fully utilize their vaccine stock, [CDPH has shifted its top priority](#) to maximizing vaccination opportunities for all eligible persons.

Therefore, providers should vaccinate all eligible individuals presenting for COVID-19 immunization, even if this may result in leftover doses at the end of the day. It is better to open a new vial and administer only a few doses than to turn away eligible vaccinees.

All doses, including those administered, wasted, redistributed, spoiled, or shipped, should continue to be reported in myCAVax for tracking purposes. Providers may contact the SF COVID Vaccine Supply Team at [CCC-Distribution@sfdph.org](mailto:CCC-Distribution@sfdph.org) for assistance with strategies to minimize wastage or to deploy vaccine to other sites.

### **Additional Information**

<https://eziz.org/covid/enrollment/pediatric/>

<https://www.sfdcp.org/covidvax>

<https://sf.gov/covid-19-vaccine-san-francisco>