



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20211104-00546-ALT (Health Alert)

RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and
Healthcare Providers – Statewide

Thursday, November 4, 2021

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccine Update: Pfizer COVID-19
Vaccine Authorized for Children 5-11 Years

Dear Colleagues,

On October 29, 2021, the FDA authorized the emergency use of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 years (pediatric vaccine). On November 2, 2021, the CDC endorsed the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for these age groups, aligning with the FDA authorization.

Key Messages and Recommendations:

- The pediatric vaccine formulation and packaging (orange cap-10 mcg dose) is different from the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine authorized for vaccine recipients 12 years of age or older (purple cap—30 mcg dose); this includes different instructions for storage, dilution/preparation, and administration.
- The pediatric vaccine is authorized and recommended for use in children 5-11 years of age as a 2-dose primary series with each dose administered 21 days apart; each dose is 10 mcg (0.2 mL after appropriate dilution).
- No safety concerns were identified in the pharmaceutical clinical trial, and a lower proportion of vaccine recipients experienced systemic side effects (e.g., fatigue, headache, myalgia, arthralgia, fever) compared to older vaccine recipients who were given the higher 30 mcg dose.
- All children and adolescents aged 5-17 years are recommended to be vaccinated with the **age-appropriate** dosing with a two-dose series of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of prior history of COVID-19 infection or seropositivity.
- If a child turns 12 years old between their first and second dose, they should receive the **age-appropriate** 30 mcg Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine (purple cap) formulation for their second dose to complete their series. However, the FDA EUA does allow for either dose formulation to be used in this circumstance. If a child receives the 10 mcg dose after turning 12 as a second dose to complete the series, the child is considered fully vaccinated, and this is not a medication error that would require a VAERS report.
- Booster doses or additional 3rd doses for vaccine recipients who are moderately-severely immunocompromised are NOT authorized nor recommended for children 5-11 years old.



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- When screening for vaccine contraindications and precautions, note the ingredients in the Pfizer pediatric vaccine have been modified (see CDC's Appendix C: Ingredients included in COVID-19 vaccines [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#))
- Primary care providers are strongly encouraged to enroll and become a COVID-19 vaccine provider to help more quickly vaccinate and protect children against COVID-19. See [COVID-19 Vaccination Providers - Mississippi State Department of Health \(ms.gov\)](#) for enrollment information.

Resources:

- COCA Call – Thursday, November 4th from 2-3pm ET ([Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccines: CDC's Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccine Primary Series in Children 5–11 years old](#))
- Updated CDC webpage: [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#)
- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)
- FDA Fact Sheet for providers: [Healthcare Providers for 5-11 years of age, orange cap, \(must dilute\) \(fda.gov\)](#)
- FDA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers: [Recipients and Caregivers 5-11 years of age \(fda.gov\)](#)

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist



Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20211104-00546-ALT
Program (HAN) Type: Health Alert
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00546
Severity: Unknown
Acknowledgement: No
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Expiration: Undetermined
Urgency: Undetermined
Delivery Time: 600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert, ADV=Health Advisory, UPD=Health Update, MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).

Program (HAN) Type: 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.

Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

Status (Type):

- Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
- Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
- Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

Message Type:

- Alert: Indicates an original Alert
- Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded



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Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe: Significant threat to life or property
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).