

**January 6, 2022**

**From:** Kansas Department of Health and Environment – Division of Public Health

**To:** COVID-19 Vaccine Providers

**RE:** CDC Updated Booster and Additional Primary Dose COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations

On Monday, the Food and Drug Administration expanded the EUA for Pfizer vaccine to allow boosters for children ages 12-15, boosters at 5 months (previously 6 months), and an additional primary dose for immunocompromised kids ages 5-11. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) acted swiftly on Tuesday and Wednesday to make recommendations consistent with the updated EUA.

**The following updates were made to COVID-19 booster shot eligibility.**

- **Children ages 12-15 are now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine booster.** Today, the [CDC authorized the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19](#) booster shot for children ages 12-15 to be administered 5 months after completing their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series. 36,474 of the 68,476 children who have completed the Pfizer-BioNTech primary series are now eligible to receive the vaccine booster.
- **Shortened booster waiting period.** People can now receive a booster shot 5 months after completing the Pfizer-BioNTech primary series. This change comes following the [January 4 announcement by the CDC](#). The waiting period for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine (2 months) or the Moderna vaccine (6 months) has not changed.

**The following update was made to the additional dose for immunocompromised people.**

Moderately or severely immunocompromised children ages 5-11 can now receive an [additional primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine](#) administered 28 days after their second shot. This change comes following the [January 4 announcement by the CDC](#).

- People are considered to be moderately or severely immunocompromised if they have:
  - Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
  - Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
  - Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system

- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response

People should talk to their healthcare provider about their medical condition and whether getting an additional primary shot is appropriate for them.

Click [here to find the COVID-19 vaccine eligibility](#) information for primary, additional and booster vaccines.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment supports this updated recommendation for all Kansas vaccine providers to follow. Providers who have questions may contact the Kansas Immunization Program at [kdhe.vaccine@ks.gov](mailto:kdhe.vaccine@ks.gov).