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GAVIN NEWSOM  
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TO: California Providers of Pediatric Services

FROM: Robert Schechter, M.D., Chief *RS*  
 Center for Infectious Diseases  
 Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Updated bivalent COVID-19 vaccines, for children 6 months through 17 years: Preliminary information

**Dear Pediatric Provider,**

Associated with the federal Food and Drug Administration [Emergency Use Authorization](#) (EUA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [recommend updated COVID-19 bivalent vaccines](#) for children 6 months through 17 years of age at least 2 months after completion of their second primary series dose or previously received monovalent booster dose. Please see [CDPH COVID-19 Vaccine Timing](#), [Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines Including Boosters | CDC](#), and the resources linked below for the most updated guidance.

**Key updates include:**

Ages	If previously received..		Then eligible for additional dose of...		
	Brand	Doses	Moderna bivalent	Pfizer Bivalent	Monovalent mRNA vaccine <sup>^</sup>
6 months – 4 years	Moderna	2	Yes	No	No
	Pfizer	2	No	Yes	No
	Pfizer	3*	No	No	No
5 years	Moderna	2	Yes	Yes	No
	Pfizer	2	No	Yes	No
6 years or older	Moderna	2	Yes	Yes	No
	Pfizer	2	Yes	Yes	No



\*Children in this age group who have received three monovalent Pfizer primary series doses are not eligible for the bivalent vaccine at this time. [FDA](#) plans to evaluate data soon that could support a bivalent booster dose to these children.

^ Monovalent mRNA vaccines are no longer authorized as booster doses at any age or as third doses in the Pfizer primary series for children 6 months through 4 years of age.

- For children who transition in age during the primary series, see [CDC's Guide on Age Transitions and Interchangeability](#). For children who transition in age from 4 to 5 years during the Pfizer primary series, FDA authorization now requires completion of the series with the formulation started at age 4. See [CDC's Guide on Age Transitions and Interchangeability](#) and [Appendix D on Vaccine administration errors and deviations](#) for more information.
- For additional guidance and clinical scenarios, see [CDC's Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity \(COCA\) Call on Clinical Guidance and Patient Education for Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccines](#).
- The vaccines for the pediatric age groups are supplied in multiple-dose vials with different colored caps and label borders, depending on the age group ([CDPH COVID-19 Vaccine Product Guide](#)). Formulations for different age groups should not be used interchangeably.

More information is at [CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) and the FDA Fact Sheets for Healthcare Providers:

**Pfizer:** [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccines | FDA](#)

**Moderna:** [Spikevax and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine | FDA](#)

### ***Administration with Other Vaccines***

[COVID-19 vaccines may be administered without regard to timing of other routine and influenza vaccines](#), including on the same day. If multiple vaccines are administered at a single visit, administer each injection in a different injection site. Muscles that may be used for multiple injections include:

Ages ≥3 years: Deltoid

Ages 6 months–2 years: Vastus lateralis of the anterolateral thigh

See [general best practices](#) and [The Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases: "the Pink Book"](#) for further information.

## RESOURCES

- [CDPH COVID-19 Vaccine Timing](#) (also available in [Spanish](#))
- [CDPH COVID-19 Vaccine Product Guide](#)
- [COVID-19 Provider Operations Manual \(eziz.org\)](#)
- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)
- [Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines Including Boosters | CDC](#)
- [CDC's Guide on Age Transitions and Interchangeability](#)
- [CDC's Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity \(COCA\) Call on Clinical Guidance and Patient Education for Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- Other CDPH Provider Information Letters: [Pfizer 6 months-17 years](#), [Moderna 6 Months-17 years](#)
- [EZIZ COVID-19 Resources](#): Updated information on vaccine management, administration, and more.
- CDC Administration Overview of [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine](#) and [Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine](#): Includes job aids for vaccine preparation, storage and handling, transport guidance, and more.
- AAP vaccine recommendations and other information are available to AAP members at [www.cispimmunize.org/](http://www.cispimmunize.org/).
- [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#), 1-800-822-7967.
- [Vaccine Injury Compensation Program \(VICP\)](#)
- Additional information on vaccines can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/>.