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DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



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## Technical Bulletin

**Date:** December 14, 2021  
**Topic:** COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses for 16-17-year-olds  
**Contact:** Susan Vilardi, RN, Nevada State Immunization Program  
**To:** All Health Care Providers and Facilities; Local Health Authorities; Pharmacists

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### Background:

On December 9, 2021, [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) expanded the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine booster recommendation](#) to include all individuals ages 16 years and older following the [expansion of Pfizer's Emergency Use Authorization by the Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#).

Only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and recommended for adolescents ages 16 and 17 years. Adolescents ages 16-17 years are now recommended to receive a single booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after completing their primary COVID-19 vaccination series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

CDC [Interim Clinical Considerations](#), the [booster webpage](#) for the public, [Pfizer \(12 years and older\) Standing Orders](#), and the [Provider Requirements and Support webpage](#) have all now been updated to reflect this updated recommendation.

### Key facts about this update:

- Individuals 16 or 17 years old **may** receive a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 booster dose based on individual benefits and risks at least 6 months after completing their primary vaccination series.
- Individuals 16 or 17 years-old who are **moderately or severely immunocompromised may** receive a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 booster dose at least 6 months after their additional (3<sup>rd</sup>) dose.
  - In the case of immunocompromised adolescents, the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose is considered part of their primary COVID-19 vaccination series.
- Individuals 16 or 17 years old are **not eligible** to receive the Moderna or Janssen/J&J vaccines either as their primary COVID-19 vaccination series or their booster dose.

### As a reminder for vaccinators, the current adult (18+) booster recommendations are as follows:

- For those who received a primary series of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine:
  - Individuals **18 years and older should** receive a booster dose of any COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after completing their Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine primary series. The primary series consists of 2 doses, except for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, who should receive 3 doses as their primary series.
    - Individuals **18 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should** receive a booster dose of any COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their 3<sup>rd</sup> dose.
- For those who received a primary series of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine:
  - Individuals **18 years and older should** receive a booster dose of any COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Moderna COVID-19 vaccine primary series. The Moderna primary series consists of 2 doses,

except for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, who should receive 3 doses as their primary series.

- Individuals **18 years and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised should** receive a booster dose of any COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their 3<sup>rd</sup> dose.
- For those who received a primary dose of the Janssen/J&J COVID-19 vaccine:
  - Individuals **18 years and older should** receive a booster dose of any COVID-19 vaccine at least 2 months after receipt of the Janssen COVID-19 single-dose primary regimen.

*Questions:*

*For updated guidance, please review the DPBH Technical Bulletin [website](#) and the Nevada Health Response [website](#) regularly. If you have other questions regarding COVID-19 vaccine booster recommendations for adolescents, please email [dpbhcovid19vax@health.nv.gov](mailto:dpbhcovid19vax@health.nv.gov).*



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