Date: December 14, 2021  
Topic: COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses for 16-17-year-olds  
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To: All Health Care Providers and Facilities; Local Health Authorities; Pharmacists

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 (3rd) dose.  
  o In the case of immunocompromised adolescents, the 3rd 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:
  o 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 3rd dose.
- For those who received a primary series of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine:
  o 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 3rd 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 dpbhcv19vax@health.nv.gov.*

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