



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc
Commissioner

December 16, 2021

Dear Colleague,

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene now recommends that **everyone ages 16 years and older receive a COVID-19 booster dose when they are eligible** (six months after their initial Pfizer or Moderna series, or two months after their initial Johnson & Johnson vaccine).

The updated recommendation follows authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to expand Pfizer booster eligibility to people ages 16 and 17 years on December 9, 2021. The Pfizer FDA fact sheets for [health care providers](#) and [recipients and caregivers](#) have been revised and providers are reminded to use the current versions. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have also updated their [clinical considerations](#) to reflect the expanded eligibility.

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine authorized for people ages 16 and 17 years, including for booster doses. The dose and volume for the Pfizer booster for people ages 16 and 17 years is the same as for the primary series and the same as for the Pfizer booster for adults (30 mcg/0.3 mL).

The booster recommendation for people ages 16 and 17 years is based on previously reported [data](#) that supported use of a booster dose in adults ages 18 years and older. Specifically, the CDC and FDA concluded that the benefits of a Pfizer booster dose to protect against COVID-19 and associated hospitalization and death outweigh the risks of myocarditis and pericarditis in this age group. The CDC and FDA have [several systems](#) in place to continually monitor COVID-19 vaccine safety and allow for the rapid detection and investigation of potential safety concerns.

Finally, please remember that **vaccination of people who have not completed their primary series remains the top priority**. Thank you for your commitment to promoting and protecting the health of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane R. Zucker'.

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization