

## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[LINK TO MEDIA RELEASE](#)

### **COVID-19 Boosters Recommended for Children Ages 12 to 15, Additional Dose Recommended for Immunocompromised Children Ages 5 to 11**

HILLSBOROUGH, N.C. Jan. 7, 2022 — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention yesterday announced it recommends the [Pfizer COVID-19 booster for children ages 12 to 15](#) to further protect them from COVID-19. The CDC also recommends a third dose of Pfizer for children ages 5 to 11 who have compromised immune systems.

In addition, the wait time for boosters for anyone who received Pfizer COVID-19 vaccinations has been reduced from six months to five months. People who received two doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should receive their booster in six months. People who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should receive their booster two months after their vaccination.

"The new recommendations by the CDC reinforce the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines and boosters — and the urgency of getting vaccinated and boosted to prevent severe illness, hospitalization and death," said Kody H. Kinsley, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

These booster recommendations come during a surge in COVID-19 infections caused by the highly contagious Omicron variant and as early research shows booster doses increase a person's ability to fight the new variant.

COVID-19 infections have skyrocketed to a seven-day daily average of more than 480,000 cases per day in the United States, and the number of children being hospitalized across the country is increasing. COVID-19 cases among children in the U.S. have reached their highest ever reported since the start of the pandemic — more than [325,000 child COVID-19 cases were reported nationally](#) in the final week of December. North Carolina is experiencing a similar surge in COVID-19 infections. Hospitalizations are rising nationally and in North Carolina, with intensive care units in the state at 85% of capacity.

COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are effective in reducing the severity of illness among those who become infected. People who are unvaccinated run the highest risk of infection, severe illness, hospitalization and death. Currently, 87% of the patients in the ICU are unvaccinated.

The CDC also updated its guidance for isolation and quarantine. People with COVID-19 should isolate for at least five full days and wear a mask for an additional five days. People exposed to

COVID-19 should quarantine for five days and wear a mask for an additional five days. However, people who are exposed to COVID-19 do not need to quarantine if they are vaccinated — including a booster for adults — against COVID-19. Because North Carolina remains in the CDC’s red zone with high community transmission, all North Carolinians should wear a mask.

Prevention is the best treatment to protect against COVID-19. Get vaccinated, get boosted.

COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are widely available across North Carolina. Go to [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.myspot.nc.gov) to find a vaccine location near you.

### Related Links

- Visit the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services website for more information about [boosters and additional doses](#). More information about vaccines for kids can be found [here](#).
- To find a vaccine location, or for more information about COVID-19 vaccines in North Carolina, visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.myspot.nc.gov) or call the state’s COVID-19 Vaccine Help Center for free at 888-675-4567.
- Visit the Orange County Health Department website for information on [vaccines, boosters, testing and masks](#).
- CDC press release: [CDC Recommends Pfizer Booster at 5 Months, Additional Primary Dose for Certain Immunocompromised Children](#)

### Related Graphics

Link to graphic:

[https://www.orangecountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/18613/cdc\\_from\\_jan-7-2022\\_on](https://www.orangecountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/18613/cdc_from_jan-7-2022_on)

The graphic features a dark blue background with white and yellow text. On the left, it reads 'NEW VACCINE UPDATE' in a red box, followed by 'CDC Updated Recommendations for those who received a Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine'. On the right, there is a table with three columns: 'Age', 'How long after initial COVID-19 vaccination series?', and 'Which shot to get'. The table contains three rows of data. At the bottom left, it says 'FIND OUT MORE AT CDC.GOV/CORONAVIRUS' and at the bottom right is the CDC logo.

| Age   | How long after initial COVID-19 vaccination series? | Which shot to get                 |
|-------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 5–11  | With a weakened immune system: 28 days              | Pfizer-BioNTech (ADDITIONAL DOSE) |
| 12–15 | 5 months  | Pfizer-BioNTech (BOOSTER DOSE)    |
| 16+   | 5 months  | Pfizer-BioNTech (BOOSTER DOSE)    |

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