

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

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November 3, 2021

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: COVID-19 VACCINES FOR CHILDREN

Yesterday, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued authorization and recommendations for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to be administered to all children ages 5 through 11. The Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup also issued its [confirmation](#) this morning. This news builds upon existing authorizations for children ages 12 and up. Within yesterday's [announcement](#), the CDC provided the following helpful visual:

Authorized For	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	J&J / Janssen
4 years and under	No	No	No
5-11 years old	Yes	No	No
12-17 years old	Yes	No	No
18 years and older	Yes	Yes	Yes

The vaccine for children ages 5 through 11, inclusive, is approximately 1/3 of the dosage provided to individuals ages 12 and older. As a result of this lower dosage, the availability of vaccines for children ages 5-11 will be increasing over the coming weeks as production ramps up. The needle used to provide shots of these lower doses is even smaller than the needle currently used for adult doses. As with all Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines, two doses are required in order to achieve full vaccination. For children ages 5-11, the second dose should be administered three weeks after the first dose.

Finally, the CDC indicates that all COVID-19 vaccines and the annual flu shot may be given at the same time. We will continue to keep you updated as more information becomes available.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by:*

PETE CERVINKA  
 Chief, Data Analytics and Strategy

cc: On following page

**“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”**

COVID-19 VACCINES FOR CHILDREN

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cc: Regional Center Board Presidents  
Regional Center Administrators  
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services  
Regional Center Community Services Directors  
Association of Regional Center Agencies