

**Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)  
Alabama Emergency Response Technology (ALERT)  
Health Alert Network (HAN)  
May 13, 2021, 2021**

**ADPH Calls for Children and Teens age 12 and up to get the COVID-19 Vaccine**

On May 12, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration expanded the emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for the prevention of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) to include adolescents 12 through 15 years of age. The FDA amended the EUA originally issued on Dec. 11, 2020 for administration in individuals 16 years of age and older.

The Alabama Department of Public Health along with the American Academy of Pediatrics is calling for children and teens age 12 and up to get the COVID-19 vaccine. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine will now be available for Alabamians 12 and up, offering another option for families in our state and the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are both available to individuals 18 years of age and older.

With this expansion, there will be more than 4 million eligible individuals in the state of Alabama. Currently, the state receives approximately 135,000 first doses each week.

"We encourage the vaccination of adolescents ages 12 and older to get the protection offered by the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine," State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris said. "This vaccine will be available at private providers and other sites which have Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine available."

As of May 12, 2,722,909 doses have been administered.

Visit [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov) to search Alabama vaccine providers by vaccine brand offered.

The following statements were issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics after yesterday's meeting:

**COVID-19 and other vaccines may now be administered without regard to timing. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 and other vaccines on the same day, as well as co-administration within 14 days.**

- Considerations for COVID-19 vaccine coadministration:
  - It is unknown if whether reactogenicity is increased with coadministration, including with other vaccines known to be more reactogenic, such as adjuvanted vaccines.
  - COVID-19 vaccines were previously recommended to be administered alone, with a minimum interval of 14 days before or after administration of any other vaccines. This was out of an abundance of caution and not due to any known safety or immunogenicity concerns.
  - However, substantial data have now been collected regarding the safety of COVID-19 vaccine currently authorized by FDA for use under EUA. Although data are not available for COVID-19 vaccines administered simultaneously with other vaccines, extensive experience with non-COVID-19 vaccines has demonstrated that

- immunogenicity and adverse event profiles are generally similar when vaccines are administered simultaneously as when they are administered alone.
- When deciding to co-administer with COVID-19 vaccines, providers could consider whether the patient is behind or at risk of becoming behind on recommended vaccines and the reactogenicity profile of the vaccines.
  - Vaccine efficacy estimate of 100% for symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 for age 12-15 of Phase 2/3 randomized controlled trial (RCT)
  - There were no severe adverse events (SAEs) in adolescents who received the Pfizer COVID vaccine during phase 3 clinical trials
  - Reactogenicity is similar between age groups and include pain at injection site, fatigue, headache, joint pain, muscle pain
  - There were less adverse events observed in age 12-15 than in age group 16-25
    - Lymphadenopathy was observed at a higher rate in the vaccine group (9 cases in vaccine vs 2 cases in placebo). Onset 2-10 days post-vaccination. Duration = 1-10 days

American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement:

<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/early/2021/05/11/peds.2021-052336.full.pdf>

AAP Press Release

<https://services.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2021/american-academy-of-pediatrics-calls-for-children-and-teens-age-12-and-up-to-get-the-covid-19-vaccine/>

New HealthyChildren.org article: <https://healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Getting-Your-Child-Ready-for-the-COVID-19-Vaccine.aspx>

## **CDC COCA Call on Friday, May 14**

### **What Clinicians Need to Know About Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccination of Adolescents**

Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) will host a call to give clinicians an overview of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccination in adolescents who are 12-to-15 years of age. Clinicians will learn about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine, vaccine recommendations, and clinical guidance for using the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents in this age group.

#### **When:**

Friday, May 14, 2021,  
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET

#### **Webinar Link:**

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1613161163?pwd=eHpsTDNXa3A2TXNVckJTSmRTaWV6QT09>  
[external icon](#)

*OR*

#### **Dial-in US:**

US:+1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 or  
+1 551 285 1373 or +1 669 216 1590

**Webinar ID:** 161 316 1163

**Passcode:** 810483

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**International numbers available:** <https://www.zoomgov.com/join/abihFRxiLeexternal>