Dear Colleagues:

- Today the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend the use of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for adolescents aged 12-15 years of age under the FDA’s Emergency Use Authorization.
- The ACIP also revised guidance on the coadministration of routine vaccines with COVID-19 vaccine for all ages, removing the 14-day minimum interval for administration of any other vaccine before or after any COVID-19 vaccine.
- Pfizer was previously approved for use in individuals 16 years and older.
- Both Moderna and Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 Vaccines are still recommended only for individuals 18 years and older.
- In Mississippi, there have been more than 22,000 reported cases resulting in 62 hospitalizations, including 20 cases of MIS-C, in adolescents aged 12-17 years, highlighting the importance of vaccination in this age group.
- Please see the following updated FDA resources:
  - Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine (Vaccination Providers) (fda.gov)
  - Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers (fda.gov)
- If you are interested in providing COVID-19 vaccines through your facility, you must be enrolled as a COVID-19 vaccine provider. See the MSDH website at COVID-19 Vaccination Providers - Mississippi State Department of Health (ms.gov) for enrollment information.

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist
Alerting Message Specification Settings

**Originating Agency:** Mississippi State Department of Health

**Alerting Program:** MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)

**Message Identifier:** MSHAN-20210512-00517-ALT

**Program (HAN) Type:** Health Alert

**Status (Type):** Actual()

**Message Type:** Alert

**Reference:** MSHAN-00517

**Severity:** Unknown

**Acknowledgement:** No

**Sensitive:** Not Sensitive

**Message Expiration:** Undetermined

**Urgency:** Undetermined

**Delivery Time:** 600 minutes

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**Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings**

**Originating Agency:** A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

**Alerting Program:** The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

**Message Identifier:** A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (ALT=Health Alert, ADV=Health Advisory, UPD=Health Update, MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service)).

**Program (HAN) Type:** Categories of Health Alert Messages.

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Health Info Service:** Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Status (Type):**

- **Actual:** Communication or alert refers to a live event
- **Exercise:** Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
- **Test:** Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
Message Type:

Alert: Indicates an original Alert
Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe: Significant threat to life or property
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).