

COVID-19 booster vaccine for teens

December 15 2021, by Deb Balzer



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This past week, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) authorized Pfizer COVID-19 booster vaccinations for 16 and 17-year-olds who are six months past their initial vaccination series.

Unlike previous changes in COVID-19 vaccination eligibility, boosters for this age group were authorized directly by the FDA and CDC without input from their advisory committees—the Vaccines and Related Biological Product Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, respectively.

"Because data shows that boosters strengthen protection against COVID-19 including variants like Delta and Omicron and because the [holiday season](#) is upon us, the FDA and CDC felt expediting the approval process was warranted, says Robert M. Jacobson, M.D., medical director, Immunization Program for Primary Care in Southeast Minnesota. "The booster dose for those 16 to 17 years of age will further protect our 16-and 17-year-olds from COVID-19 infection and as a result protect their families, friends, classmates, teammates, coaches and teachers."

Dr. Jacobson adds, "I strongly recommend everyone now due for a booster get that booster. Those who haven't got their primary series completed should get it completed now. All of us need to do our part to end this pandemic and protect ourselves and our loved ones."

If you, your children or other [family members](#) are eligible to receive a COVID-19 booster vaccination, check COVID-19 vaccination options by Mayo Clinic location. Eligible patients and staff also can seek a booster vaccination through a community vaccination site or local pharmacy.

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