



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Ashwin Vasani, MD, PhD
Commissioner

March 24, 2023

Dear Colleague,

Last week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a [recommendation](#) for **children ages 6 months through 4 years who previously completed the full 3-dose monovalent Pfizer COVID-19 primary vaccination series to receive a booster dose of Pfizer's updated (bivalent) COVID-19 vaccine.**

This new booster recommendation only applies to children who completed Pfizer's 3-dose COVID-19 monovalent primary series before December 9, 2022, and not to children vaccinated after that date who already received a bivalent dose as their third dose. With this update, all children in this age group who received Pfizer are now eligible and recommended to receive a bivalent vaccine, either as Dose 3 after monovalent Dose 1 and 2 or as a booster dose after monovalent Dose 1, 2 and 3. **All children ages 6 months through 4 years who start a new Pfizer primary series should receive monovalent vaccine for Dose 1 and 2 and bivalent vaccine for Dose 3.**

COVID-19 vaccine coverage for young children remains low throughout New York City, with only [7% of children](#) ages 0 to 4 years with a completed primary series. Children younger than 2 years of age have higher [COVID-19 hospitalization rates](#) than older children, and COVID-19 vaccines continue to be the most effective tool we have to prevent serious illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19.

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is working hard to increase parent confidence in COVID-19 vaccines and improve vaccine uptake among young children. **Please do your part by continuing to make a strong recommendation to parents to vaccinate their eligible children and ordering pediatric COVID-19 vaccines to have available at your facility.**

If you do not have COVID-19 vaccine at your facility, refer patients to a vaccination site. To find a vaccination site, visit vaccinefinder.nyc.gov or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692).

Thank you for continuing to promote and protect the health of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane R. Zucker".

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene