



## **TALKING POINTS: FDA Authorizes Pfizer to Expand Its COVID-19 Vaccine to Children Ages 12-15**

**On Monday, May 10, 2021, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) expanded authorization of Pfizer’s vaccine to children ages 12-15. Vaccination against COVID-19 infection is the only sure path toward ending the pandemic and a steady recovery that allows us to once again enjoy the moments, memories, and people we miss most. The Pfizer authorization marks a crucial step toward those goals and reestablishing normalcy to families and communities across the nation.**

### **Impact:**

- Expanding the Pfizer vaccine to teens and pre-teens means scores of students can more safely return to school this fall, see their loved ones, and engage in social activities; further advancing efforts to return to some form of normalcy.
- Many individuals in Black, Brown, indigenous and AAPI communities live in multigenerational households – Pfizer’s expanded authorization to children 12-15 means more households will have increased chances from staying clear of COVID-19 infection.
- The Pfizer authorization extends eligibility to children in tens of millions of U.S. families.
- Approximately 8 million 12-15-year-olds in Black and Brown communities -- pending approval from a CDC advisory committee-- will now be eligible for vaccination.

### **About this Demographic:**

- Younger people can still contract serious cases of the virus, including hospitalization and death.
- Vaccinating younger people is a key component of safely opening up schools and hosting larger, normal academic gatherings.



- Younger people who don't experience symptoms can transmit the virus asymptotically, putting their teachers, parents and others around them at risk.
- According to medical authorities, vaccinating children in particular shields others in the community from the virus. This includes those who are not protected by the vaccine.
- According to the CDC, children between the ages of 0 and 17, Latino children represent nearly 30% of cases, and Black, non-Hispanic children, represent 12.6% of cases.

#### **Next Steps:**

- The CDC's Advisory Committee of Immunization Practices (ACIP) will meet to review the data and issue a recommendation.
- If the ACIP issues a positive recommendation, the Pfizer vaccine will be distributed to pediatricians and family physicians. The vaccine will also be available at pharmacies and federal distribution centers, just as the adult vaccines have. Final approval could happen as early as this week.
- Upon approval, physicians and vaccine administration facilities will begin accepting appointments for children, ages 12-15.

#### **Campaign Call-to-Action(s)**

- COVID-19 vaccination remains the only way to end the pandemic.
- Parents should have their children vaccinated as soon as they are eligible, and learn more about the vaccines if they have questions at [MadeToSave.org/learn](https://www.madetosave.org/learn).
- Parents should include their children's vaccination in their family vaccination plan.
- Parents who have not yet been COVID-19 vaccinated should be vaccinated as soon as possible and tell their family and friends to do the same.