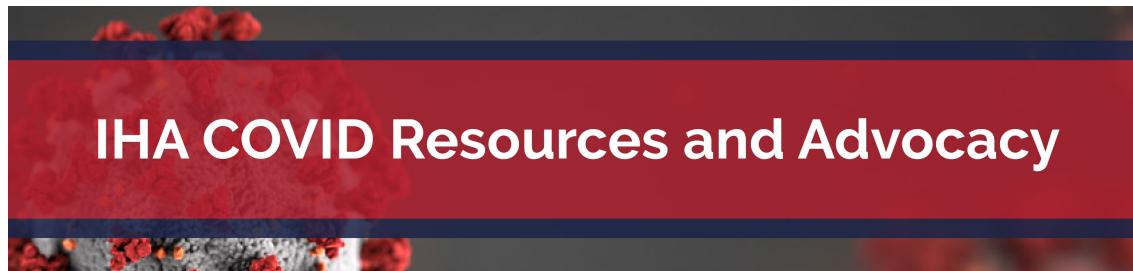


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Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021

CDC releases first document outlining pediatric COVID-19 vaccination planning

The CDC has released a [document](#) to help jurisdictions plan for the distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines to the pediatric population. The document provides information about pediatric COVID-19 vaccines and several assumptions that can be made about the pediatric COVID-19 vaccination program.

Specifically, the document highlights the packaging changes and storage requirements for the Pfizer pediatric COVID-19 vaccine for children 5-11. The Pfizer vaccine for children is under review by the FDA, and a decision about whether an emergency-use authorization for the product will be granted is expected in the coming weeks.

Ordering the Pfizer vaccine and subsequent pediatric COVID-19 vaccines will begin when the FDA issues an authorization. Vaccine administration will begin when the CDC director reviews recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

FDA to consider boosters

Thursday, Oct. 14, and Friday, Oct. 15, the Food and Drug Administration's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee will meet to discuss the use of booster doses of the Moderna and the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccines to people 18 and older.

The meetings are scheduled from 8:30 am to 5 pm both days. Click [HERE](#) for briefing documents, and Live streams can be found here:

- [Thursday, Oct. 14](#)
- [Friday, Oct. 15](#)

The committee also will discuss the use of a booster of a different vaccine than the one used for the primary series.

The FDA and CDC had recently authorized boosters for the Pfizer vaccine, six months after the second dose for [certain populations](#), including those at risk of serious illness and those at high risk of exposure.

IDPH updates COVID-19 vaccine information brief

IDPH has released an [updated COVID-19 vaccine information brief](#). The document also is posted to the HAN *3 COVID-19 vaccine folder. Call the Immunization Program with questions at 800-831-6293, ext.1.

Merck applies for emergency use for oral COVID-19 antiviral treatment

Merck has applied for Food and Drug Administration emergency-use authorization of its investigational oral antiviral COVID-19 medicine. The drug, molnupiravir, treats mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in at-risk adults. An interim analysis of Merck's phase three clinical trial yielded positive results for non-hospitalized adult patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 and at risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 or hospitalization. According to the data, molnupiravir reduced the risk of hospitalization or death by about 50%.

2021 National Health Security Preparedness Index released

The [2021 National Health Security Preparedness Index](#) shows that despite COVID-19's challenges, the nation's emergency preparedness capabilities held steady throughout 2020, and health security levels improved in many states because of increased testing and surveillance. The index can help local and state leaders pave a path for a safer, more-prepared future.

IDPH releases COVID-19 testing infographics for social media

IDPH has made available four COVID-19 testing infographics that providers can use with their social media accounts. The infographic titles are:

- [Getting Tested Is an Important Tool for Slowing the Spread of the Virus in Iowa](#)
- [Need a COVID-19 Test? \(testing options\)](#)
- [Proactive Testing \(at-home kits, scheduling tests through pharmacies\)](#)
- [Symptoms/Exposed \(testing after exposure\)](#)

Each graphic includes the URL address for a map of testing sites in Iowa.

Educational opportunity

[Making Your HVAC Systems Pandemic Ready with Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization](#)

1:30-2:30 pm, Tuesday, Oct. 26. Needlepoint bipolar ionization reduces particles, kills mold and bacteria, and inactivates viruses. The system is also very effective at coil cleaning and odor/VOC mitigation by disassociating the compound into its component elements.



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