

**December 9, 2021**

**To:** Vaccine Providers

**RE:** Booster Dose of COVID-19 Vaccines Now Authorized and Recommended ages 16 and older

Today, the Federal Drug Administration and the CDC Director have authorized booster doses of COVID – 19 vaccine for persons 16 and 17 years of age. Kansas Department of Health and Environment supports this recommendation and all Kansas COVID providers are encouraged to follow the recommendation.

CDC Director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky stated, “Today, CDC is strengthening its booster recommendations and encouraging everyone 16 and older to receive a booster shot. Although we don’t have all the answers on the Omicron variant, initial data suggests that COVID-19 boosters help broaden and strengthen the protection against Omicron and other variants. We know that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and I strongly encourage adolescents ages 16 and 17 to get their booster if they are at least 6 months post their initial Pfizer vaccination series.”

Booster doses are recommended for all persons 16 and older who have completed a 2-dose primary series of Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at least six months prior or Johnson and Johnson Vaccine at least two months prior. At this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and recommended for adolescents aged 16 and 17.

Providers who have questions may contact the Kansas Immunization Program at [kdhe.vaccine@ks.gov](mailto:kdhe.vaccine@ks.gov).