

American Academy of Pediatrics

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December 12, 2020

A Message from the President: FDA Approved EUA for Nation's First COVID Vaccine

Dear Colleagues:

Last night, the [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) approved emergency use authorization](#) (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine in the U.S. for individuals 16 years and older. This is a [historic regulatory decision](#) that provides hope and a way forward in containing the pandemic and protecting pediatricians and all front-line medical staff, who continue to put their own health and safety at risk in order to care for others.

In the coming days, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), of which several of our pediatricians are members, will meet to make recommendations regarding the use of the vaccine. And the [AAP will continue to urge manufacturers](#) to include younger children in their trials as it becomes safe to do so. Pfizer-BioNTech has already begun including children as young as 12, and we look forward to learning from that data and expanding these trials to ensure children of all ages and diverse populations can return safely to school in the fall.

This news generates a lot of questions, so we have created a [Q&A](#) to share what we know and help guide you through conversations with patients, families, coworkers, and the public.

With the virus at unprecedented levels and medical systems in many communities pushed to the brink, this breakthrough offers much-needed light at the end of the tunnel. How long that tunnel will be depends on Americans practicing the public health measures that have been proven to reduce the spread of the virus: social distance, wear masks, avoid crowds, wash hands, and get the vaccine when it becomes available. Yet I am incredibly heartened by what now appears on the horizon.

We will continue to update you on the latest developments. In the meantime, thank you for all the contributions and sacrifices you have made throughout these past 10 months. And remember to take care of yourselves as you continue to care for others.

Sincerely,

Sara "Sally" Goza, MD, FAAP

President