Hello Cook County Department of Public Health Healthcare Partner,

On January 3rd, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to:

- Expand the use of a single booster dose to include use in individuals 12 through 15 years of age.
- Shorten the time between the completion of primary vaccination of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and a booster dose to at least five months.
- Allow for a third primary series dose for certain immunocompromised children 5 through 11 years of age.

The second and third amendments were approved by CDC Director Dr. Walensky on January 4th, and on January 5th, the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP) voted to approve the recommendation that a **single Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster dose is recommended for persons aged 12–17 years after at least 5 months under the FDA’s Emergency Use Authorization.** Dr. Walensky also signed off on this, thus providers can act immediately in providing boosters to this population.

Healthcare providers should now be providing and encouraging boosters for all of their patients 12 and older. Data has shown that boosters are especially important now with the highly contagious Omicron variant to protect against infection, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. ACIP reviewed the available safety data following the administration of over 25 million vaccine doses in adolescents; COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.