Approval of ACIP Recommendations for use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and Amendment to 2021 Adult Immunization Schedule

Approved by the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents on behalf of the Board of Regents on December 14, 2020

To: Executive Committee of the Board of Regents

From: Carolyn Bridges, MD, FACP
    Chair, Immunization Committee

Date: December 14, 2020

Action
Requested: The Executive Committee of the Board of Regents is requested to approve the ACIP Interim Recommendations for: 1) Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine; and 2) Amendment to the 2021 Adult Immunization Schedule.

Background:

Each year, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) reviews and publishes the recommended adult immunization schedule for adults age 19 and older. In November 2020, the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents (ECBOR) approved the 2021 ACIP Recommended Immunization Schedule for Adults, which will be published in Annals in early 2021. The 2020 ACIP schedule was also approved by other medical societies, including the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM).

The ACIP convened emergency meetings on December 11 and 12, 2020 to review and vote on recommendations for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. ACIP voted 11-0 (with 3 members recusing themselves) to approve the following interim recommendation:
    The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is recommended for persons 16 years of age and older in the US population under the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization.

These recommendations were published in the Monthly Mortality Weekly Report on December 13, 2020.

Additionally, the ACIP voted 14-0 to approve the following amendment to the 2021 Adult Immunization Schedule:
ACIP recommends use of COVID-19 vaccines within the scope of the Emergency Use Authorization or Biologics License Application for the particular vaccine. Interim ACIP recommendations for the use of COVID-19 vaccines can be found at https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/covid-19.html

ACP’s Immunization Committee (IC) convened on Monday, December 14, 2020 by video conference to discuss the ACIP recommendations for Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine. IC members in attendance included Carolyn Bridges, MD, FACP (Chair), Jason Goldman, MD, FACP; James Hotz, MD, MACP; Josune Iglesias, MD, FACP; Kristin Mitchell, MD, FACP and Vidya Sundareshan, MD, FACP. IC member, Michael Bronze, MD, MACP, was not in attendance. IC members voted 6-0 (1 member absent) to support ACIP interim recommendations for use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for persons 16 and older under the FDA’s EUA as well as the amendment to the 2021 Adult Immunization Schedule.

The IC recommends that the ECBOR support ACIP interim recommendations for use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and the amendment to the 2021 Adult Immunization Schedule.