



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

15 October 2021

**DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR**

No. 2021 - 0468

**FOR:** ALL CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, NATIONAL DRUG POLICY COMPLIANCE OFFICES, LEAGUES OF CITIES, PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES, PROFESSIONAL HEALTH SOCIETIES, DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS AND REGIONAL OFFICES, BARMM MINISTER OF HEALTH, CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS AND SANITARIES, AND OTHER CONCERNED

**SUBJECT:** Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) Recommendations on COVID-19 Vaccination of the Pediatric Population

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By virtue of Republic Act 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, health technology assessment (HTA) shall be institutionalized as a fair and transparent priority-setting mechanism to provide financing and coverage recommendations on health technologies to be funded by the Department of Health (DOH) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

As such, please be informed that the Secretary of Health has approved the HTAC recommendations on COVID-19 vaccination of the pediatric population, to wit:

- ***Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine***
  - The HTAC maintains its recommendation to use Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine among adolescents aged 16 to 17 years and extends this recommendation for use in children aged 12 to 15 years.
- ***Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine***
  - The HTAC recommends extending the use of COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna among children aged 12 to 17 years.
- ***COVID-19 Vaccines AstraZeneca, CoronaVac, and Janssen***
  - HTAC does not currently recommend the use of AstraZeneca, CoronaVac, and Janssen among children and adolescents (12 to 17 years old) due to current limited clinical evidence on their use in the pediatric population.

The HTAC further recommends compliance with standard vaccination program protocols in introducing vaccines for children with only Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). These

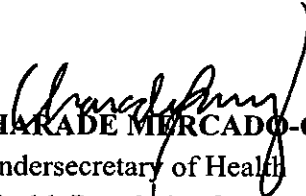
recommendations shall be revisited to possibly include children younger than 12 years old once data for this age group becomes available.

You may refer to this link for more information:

<https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2021/10/15/signed-by-secretary-of-health-htac-interim-recommendations-on-pediatric-vaccination-for-2022-covid-19-vaccine-implementation/>

For your information and guidance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

  
**ATTY. CHARADE MERCADO-GRANDE**  
Undersecretary of Health  
Health Regulation Team