May 12, 2021

To: Governors of California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington State
  • Governor Gavin Newsom, California
  • Governor Steve Sisolak, Nevada
  • Governor Kate Brown, Oregon
  • Governor Jay Inslee, Washington

From: Arthur Reingold, MD, Chair
Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup

The Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup, after a thorough review of the evidence from the clinical trial of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for those 12-15 years of age, concludes the vaccine is safe and effective in this age group and supports its use. Expanding COVID-19 vaccination to anyone 12 years of age and above will both protect those who are vaccinated and contribute to control of the COVID-19 pandemic in our states.

Respectfully submitted:
Members of the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup:

Arthur Reingold, MD, Chair, UC Berkeley School of Public Health

California Members:

• Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH, California Department of Public Health and State Health Officer
• Eric Goosby, MD, UCSF School of Medicine
• Rodney Hood, MD, UC San Diego Alumnus and National Medical Association
• Nicola Klein, MD, Ph.D., Kaiser Permanente Northern California
• Grace M. Lee, MD, MPH, Stanford Children’s Health and Stanford University School of Medicine
• Bonnie Maldonado, MD, Stanford University School of Medicine and Stanford Children’s Health
• Mark H. Sawyer, MD, UC San Diego School of Medicine and Rady Children’s Hospital
• Robert Schechter, MD, California Department of Public Health
• Peter G. Szilagyi, MD, MPH, UCLA Health and David Geffen School of Medicine
• Matt Zahn, MD, Orange County Health Care Agency

Nevada Members:
• Ihsan Azzam, MD, Ph.D., Chief Medical Officer, State of Nevada
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Oregon Members:
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• Louis J. Picker, MD, OHSU Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute

Washington Members:
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