

Covid Vaccine for 5-11 Year-Olds FAQs

Q. Why should my 5-11 year old child get the COVID-19 Vaccine?

A. Although COVID-19 is relatively mild for most children who get infected, more than 8,300 children between 5-11 have been hospitalized with COVID-19 due to serious illness and almost 800 children have died, which has made it the 8th highest killer of children. In addition, more than 5,200 children and teens have developed MIS-C, or multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children, which often leads to an ICU admission. The median age for children with MIS-C is 9 years old. Also, a COVID-19 infection can result in lasting long-term detriments to the health of the children, such as heart and lung problems.

Furthermore, children receiving the vaccination could prevent many infections and limit the spread of the disease, as well as disruptions to schooling.

Q: Is the dosage the same for 5-11 year-olds?

A: Pfizer-BioNTech is the first pharmaceutical company to distribute pediatric COVID-19 Vaccines. The CDC has recommended a dosage that is a third the amount of the adult dosage. This dosage has been shown in clinical trials to produce a strong immune response comparable to the one seen in people 16-25 years old.

Q: What are the side effects? Is it safe for children?

A: Children face no different side effects than adults or teenagers. Soreness at the injection site is common, as are flu-like symptoms for 24 hours after getting the vaccine. There are no other notable side effects found. In very few cases, myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) was found in ages 12-16. However, myocarditis goes away very quickly and has no lasting impact on the child. Additionally, because ages 5-11 are receiving a lower dosage than other age groups, this prevents myocarditis and no cases of it were reported during trials.

Q: Where can my child get the vaccine?

A: Children can get their vaccine at offering locations, such as local pharmacies. RiteAid, Walgreens, and CVS have all begun to promote sign-up slots for children ages 5-11. Contact your pediatrician to see if they distribute it as well.

Q: How long until my child is fully vaccinated?

A: Children can get their vaccine as soon as possible at offering locations. They have to wait 3 weeks to get the second dose.

Q: If my kid is 11, should I wait until they are 12 to get the vaccine then?

A: The CDC recommends that families don't wait to get their children vaccinated, because it increases the risk of exposure while unprotected.

Q: Should I wait to see how other children are impacted before I vaccinate mine?

A: The CDC recommends that people get vaccinated as soon as possible. In the clinical trials, children have faced no harmful detriments.

Q: If my kid already had COVID-19, do they still need to be vaccinated?

A: Yes. The virus is constantly mutating and getting vaccinated will help protect kids from such mutations. It also increases herd immunity, which is the best way to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Q: Do I have to pay for the vaccine?

A: No. With or without insurance, the vaccine is free!

Q: Where should I go if I have more questions?

A: Contact your pediatrician, primary care physician, or call Disability Rights NJ at 800-922-7233



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800.922.7233 (NJ Only) | 609.292.9742
609.633.7106 (TTY) | 609.777.0187 (FAX)

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