

FAQs about COVID-19 VACCINES

We know our families have a lot of questions about the COVID-19 vaccine for your children. Here is information that we hope will be helpful.

While COVID infection is mild for most children, in some cases, it can also lead to hospitalization, serious illness, and very rarely death, which can be prevented by the vaccine.

Should we get the COVID-19 vaccine for our child?

While that decision ultimately lies with you, after reviewing the available literature and research, we at Piedmont Pediatrics believe that the vaccine is safe and effective in protecting children from COVID-19 infection and potential complications.

By vaccinating your child, they are less likely to get COVID-19 or to spread it to higher risk contacts around them like grandparents and the immunocompromised.

As with any vaccine, there are risk and benefits to the COVID vaccine. However, we believe that the benefits of the vaccine outweigh any risks from the vaccine as well as risks from COVID infection itself.

Does Piedmont Pediatrics have COVID-19 vaccines in the office?

Yes, we have received a supply of the **Pfizer** COVID-19 vaccine for children 6 months of age and up. We have vaccine clinics specifically for your child to receive the COVID vaccine. If she is in the office for a well child check-up, it is also possible that she may be able to receive the vaccine at that visit. We do not have Moderna vaccine in the office.

When are the COVID-19 vaccine clinics? How do I sign my child up?

Go to our website at www.piedmontpediatrics.org to sign up for the COVID vaccine clinics.

Clinics will occur on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30am – 4:00 pm.**

Your child MUST be signed up for the clinic to receive the vaccine. We will NOT be vaccinating any patients who have not signed up and pre-registered in advance. Sorry for this, but there are strict documentation requirements and limits on the amount of time each vaccine vial can be opened. Again, you **MUST** pre-register your child through our website!!

How many doses of the COVID Pfizer vaccine does my child need?

Children 6 months – 4 years of age receive **THREE** doses of the vaccine: Dose #2 is given at least 3 weeks after dose #1, and dose #3 is given at least 8 weeks after dose #2.

Children 5 years old and up receive **TWO** doses of the vaccine, three weeks apart from each other. These children should also receive a third **BOOSTER** dose of the vaccine at least 5 months after dose #2.

We will make your child's next vaccine appointment when you come in for her vaccine clinic.

My child is big/small for his age. Does this affect which version of the Pfizer vaccine he should get?

All vaccine doses are based on age, not on weight. For example, a 3 year old gets the same dose of flu vaccine as a 25 year old NFL football player. So regardless of your child's size, the same dose is given for that age child.

What are the recommendations about spacing these different vaccines?

You may receive the COVID vaccine at any time before or after receiving another vaccine. You may also receive other vaccines on the same day as receiving the COVID vaccine.

My child had COVID-19 infection. Should she still get the vaccine?

Yes, it is recommended that your child still receive the COVID vaccine. Studies show that a person gets more protection from the vaccine than from actual infection. Of course, your child should wait until after their isolation period and is feeling better before receiving the vaccine. Also, if your child is currently in quarantine because of exposure to COVID-19, please wait until their quarantine period is over before coming into the office for the vaccine.

What side effects have been seen with the Pfizer vaccine?

The side effects have been similar to other routine vaccines: sore arm/leg, redness at site, fever, fatigue, chills, headache, myalgia, and arthralgia. The side effects are temporary and mostly mild or moderate. You may give your child Ibuprofen or Acetaminophen if he experiences any side effects, as you would do for other routine vaccines.

PLEASE REMEMBER: YOU MUST SIGN YOUR CHILD UP FOR THE VACCINE CLINIC ON OUR WEBISTE!! PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED TO CANCEL YOUR APPOINTMENT SO THAT WE CAN MAKE IT AVAILABLE FOR ANOTHER PATIENT!!

Want more info? The following websites may be helpful:

[COVID Vaccines for Kids 6 Months & Older: FAQs for Families - HealthyChildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org/HEALTHYCHILD/COVID-19/Pages/FAQs-for-Families.aspx)

[Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination for Children and Teens | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s110320-covid-19-vaccine-qa.html)