

## FAQs about COVID-19 VACCINES for 5-11 year olds

We know our families have a lot of questions about the COVID-19 vaccine for your 5-11 year old children. Here is a lot of information; we hope it will be helpful:

While COVID infection is mild for most children, in some cases, it also can lead to hospitalization and 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 spread it to higher risk contacts around them like grandparents and the immunocompromised.

In addition, if your child receives the vaccine, she may not have to quarantine if exposed to COVID-19, so she will not have to miss school and activities like she has so far.

As with any vaccine, there are risks and benefits to the COVID vaccine. However, after reviewing the research and clinical trials, we believe the benefits of the vaccination 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 5-11 year olds. However, because of particular regulations and restrictions on the vaccine, at this time, we can **ONLY** provide vaccination during our **specific COVID vaccine clinics**. We understand that this is frustrating and inconvenient, but will let you know if and when these regulations change.

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

Go to our website at [www.piedmontpediatrics.org](http://www.piedmontpediatrics.org) to sign up for the COVID vaccine clinics. The clinics will occur on **Saturdays, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>**, from 1—4 PM in **our office**. We will not be offering drive-through clinics for Covid vaccines.

Clinics will also occur on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays** in **our office** from 3:30pm to 6 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.

**I have older children as well, can they receive the COVID vaccine at Piedmont Pediatrics?**

**No.** We only have the pediatric formulation of the Pfizer vaccine in the office which is only approved for 5-11 year olds. We recommend your older children receive the Adult Pfizer vaccine at another location at this time. Check out this website for further information:

<https://www.choa.org/covid19vaccine>

**Is it okay if we get the vaccine at school or at the pharmacy instead of with Piedmont Pediatrics?**

**Yes.** It is fine for your child to receive the vaccine from another COVID vaccine provider. Your child's vaccine information will be entered into the state vaccine registry, so we will have access to the dates of vaccination.

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

For the Pediatric Pfizer vaccine, your child must receive two doses, three weeks apart from each other. We will make your child's second vaccine appointment when you come in for the first one. Of course, it is okay to get the second vaccine at an outside location if needed.

Please remember that the Pediatric Pfizer vaccine is a different formulation and vial than the Adult Pfizer vaccine. If your child is 5-11 years old, he must receive the Pediatric Pfizer formulation only.

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

**No.** All vaccine doses are based on age, not on weight. The flu vaccine is dosed the same way. 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 any 5-11 year old child.

**What if he turns 12 before the second dose is due?**

If your child turns 12 years old before time for the second dose of the vaccine, then he should get the Adult Pfizer formulation and not the Pediatric version. We do not have the Adult formulation in our office but he can receive it at many pharmacy and testing sites, like Viral Solutions. Again, see: <https://www.choa.org/covid19vaccine>

**My child just received his Flu vaccine and his 11 year old shots, but I want him to get the COVID vaccine. What are the recommendations about spacing these different vaccines?**

The COVID vaccine does not interact with other vaccines so there are no spacing requirements, but remember, we are ONLY giving COVID vaccines at these vaccine clinics, so for now, we are unable to give your child a flu vaccine or any other vaccines at the same time.

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

Yes, it is recommended that your child still receive the COVID vaccine. 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.

**Remember:**

If you want your child to receive the vaccine, you must sign up on our website:

[www.Piedmontpediatrics.org](http://www.Piedmontpediatrics.org)

Please let us know if you need to cancel your appointment so that we can make it available to another patient.

Want more info:

[https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/coronavirus-outbreak-and-kid](https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/coronavirus-outbreak-and-kids)

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<https://www.choa.org/medical-services/infectious-diseases/covid-19>