



SCHOOL VACCINATION EVENTS FOR CHILDREN AGE 5 TO 11

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Does the COVID-19 vaccine work for children age 5 to 11?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [authorized](#) the Pfizer BioNTech-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for use in children age 5 to 11. Data from a large clinical trial with approximately 4,700 children age 5 to 11 found that the vaccine was 90.7% effective against COVID-19, including the Delta variant. For the best protection, children need to be fully vaccinated—meaning they have gotten two doses and at least two weeks have passed since they've gotten the second dose of the vaccine.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for children age 5 to 11?

Safety is a top priority. Around 3,100 of the children who participated in a large clinical trial received the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and none had serious post-vaccination effects. Some children reported that they had soreness in their upper arms, aches, fever, or fatigue. These responses are normal and show that the body is building protection. No cases of myocarditis or pericarditis have been reported to date.

Why should I get my child vaccinated?

Vaccination is key to protecting children from COVID-19. In the US, COVID-19 cases in children age 5 to 11 make up 39% of cases in individuals younger than 18 years of age. According to the CDC, approximately 8,300 COVID-19 cases in children age 5 to 11 resulted in hospitalization, and 94 of those children have died. The death toll in the past year puts COVID-19 in the [top 10 causes of death](#) for this age group.

Since the start of school, from August 29, 2021, to October 23, 2021, [92% of students in Rhode Island's Pre K-12 schools who tested positive for COVID-19 were not vaccinated](#), and 67% of them were age 5 to 11.

Hospitalization rates for unvaccinated adolescents have been 10 times higher in Rhode Island than among fully vaccinated adolescents.

Millions of adolescents age 12 to 17 have been safely vaccinated, and we know vaccines work. Fully vaccinated individuals are 10 times less likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19 and have a high degree of protection, including against the Delta variant.

Is the vaccine for children age 5 to 11 the same as the one for older children and adults?

Children age 5 to 11 will receive a smaller dose that is only one-third the size of the same Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Just like older children, those age 5 to 11 will receive two doses of the vaccine, given three weeks apart.

Is there concern about myocarditis/pericarditis with the vaccine for children age 5 to 11?

As of November 1, no participants in the large vaccine trial for children age 5 to 11 have developed myocarditis or pericarditis. Few cases of myocarditis or pericarditis have been reported among the millions of adolescents age 12 and older who have received the COVID-19 vaccine. These reports are rare and the known and potential

benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks, including of [myocarditis and pericarditis](#).

If my child is turning 12 soon, should I wait for that dose since it is a larger dose?

No, please vaccinate your child as soon as possible with the dose approved for the age they are right now. The sooner your child is protected the better it is for your child and their close contacts.

Does my child need to wait to get the COVID-19 vaccine if they have gotten other immunizations recently?

You can get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines, including a flu vaccine, at the same visit. Experience with other vaccines has shown that the way our bodies develop protection, known as an immune response, and possible post-vaccination effects after getting vaccinated are generally the same when given alone or with other vaccines. The CDC recommends that if multiple vaccines are administered during a single visit, the injections should be given at least one inch apart or may be given in different arms or other parts of the body.

Will a child need a consent from and have a parent or guardian with them?

Yes. Children age 5 to 11 will need to have consent from a parent or legal guardian for a vaccination appointment. A parent/guardian will need to give consent first on www.vaccinateRI.org or before vaccination on site. Children age 5 to 11 must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other individual age 16 or older when getting a COVID-19 vaccination at any State-sponsored, mass vaccination clinic.

Will a parent and/or child need to show identification or have insurance?

No identification is necessary for you or your child to get vaccinated. The vaccination doesn't cost anything. If you have a health insurance card, we ask that you bring it to the site. If you do not have a health insurance card, you or your child can still get vaccinated. Adding health insurance information to you or your child's vaccine record is optional.

How will children get their second dose of the vaccine?

Children who get vaccinated at [school or at community clinics](#) will be asked to schedule their second dose during the 15-minute observation period after their first dose is administered. Children will be able to get both first and second doses at these clinics. The vaccination event organizers will be able to tell the child and the parent/guardian exactly when and where the second dose event will be. Children who get vaccinated at a pharmacy or at a healthcare provider's office or health center should schedule their second dose immediately after they receive their first dose.

Find more information about the Pfizer COVID-19 pediatric vaccine at www.fda.gov/media/153447/download and updated information at covid.ri.gov/5to11vaccinefaq.