Children should receive 2 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The second dose should be 3 weeks or more after the first dose. Three doses are recommended for children who are immunocompromised.

The dose is smaller than the dose for teens and adults, but it is the same vaccine.

What is the recommendation for COVID-19 vaccination for children ages 5 to 11?

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Is the COVID-19 vaccine effective and safe for children ages 5 to 11?

- Yes. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was studied in a clinical trial of more than 2,200 children. In the clinical trial, the vaccine was 90% effective in preventing symptomatic cases of COVID-19. No serious side effects were observed.
- Over 4.8 million children of ages 5-11 have safely received at least one dose.

I've heard that COVID-19 doesn't affect kids as much, why should I get my child vaccinated?

- Over 6 million children in the United States have been infected by COVID-19. Most infections are mild, and the children fully recover. But, some children have gotten really sick and even died from COVID-19.
- Children who have mild or severe disease can develop “long COVID” where the infection causes long-term health problems.
- Even if you child doesn’t get very sick, they can easily spread COVID-19 to others and they will miss out on school and other activities!
- Vaccines are important to make sure children can go to school and activities, play sports, and see their friends!

What is the recommendation for COVID-19 vaccination for children ages 5 to 11?

- Yes! It is possible to be reinfected after having COVID-19.
- Getting vaccinated after having been infected with COVID-19 will give your child a greater level of protection.

I heard these vaccines were developed quickly. Should I be nervous about getting this vaccine for my child?

- No. The COVID-19 vaccines went through rigorous clinical trials and FDA approval process. No steps were cut.
- Scientists have worked on the technology for these vaccines for decades. We already had a lot of important data before the pandemic started.

Does my child need to keep wearing a mask after getting vaccinated?

- The CDC recommends wearing a mask in areas where there are a lot of COVID cases, even if you are vaccinated.
- Towns, schools, and businesses may have their own rules about wearing masks. It’s best to pay attention to local and state recommendations about where to wear a mask.

FACTS ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR CHILDREN AGES 5 TO 11

January, 2022
What if my child is large for their age? Do I need to get them the dosage for teens?

The COVID-19 vaccine activates the immune system to recognize the virus in the future.

- The dose is based on your child’s immune system maturity which is related to their age.
- It is not based on body size.
- This is why the child’s age is what matters, not their size.

My child has severe allergies. Can they still get vaccinated?

Talk with your child’s doctor if:

- Your child has had an allergic reaction to the ingredients in the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Your child has any other health condition that makes you concerned about getting your child vaccinated.

In most cases, children with severe allergy can be vaccinated safely.

Where can I get my child vaccinated?

FREE walk-in vaccine clinics. All vaccines are administered by medical professionals!

- Downtown Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square
- Every Wednesday from 11 AM to 7 PM
- Every Saturday from 11 AM to 5 PM

Should I be worried about heart problems as a side effect of the vaccine?

- COVID-19 infection is known to cause heart inflammation, a condition called myocarditis.
- With mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, myocarditis has happened in a small number of people. This condition is very rare but has occurred in some children.
- Regardless of age or risk factors, the risk of myocarditis is lower from vaccination (and less severe) compared to COVID-19 disease.

My child is almost 12 years old. Should I wait to get them the dose for teens and adults?

You should not wait. Pediatricians recommend your child get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. Waiting to vaccinate your child leaves them unprotected from COVID-19 longer than necessary.

For more information

CDC.gov   worcesterma.gov   mass.gov

Contact: umwprc@umassmed.edu