

COVID VACCINE FAQ'S

Where can I get the COVID-19 Vaccine for my child?

Many local pharmacies are offering the COVID vaccine to children and adolescents ages 5 and up, and even local school systems and towns have also been holding vaccination clinics for children ages 5 and up.

Use this link to find a vaccine clinic close to you: <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>

Which COVID-19 Vaccine should my child receive?

As of 11/3/2021, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 is the only vaccine that has been approved for children ages 5-17. Children ages 5-11 receive a dose of 10ug regardless of weight. The vaccine dose is based on children's immune response, not their size. This dose was found to be 90.7% effective in preventing COVID-19 in children ages 5 through 11. Even if your child is turning 12 in the upcoming months it is still recommended they receive the 10ug dose. In an ongoing study approximately 3,100 patients received the vaccine with no major side effects. It is administered as a 2 dose primary series, with 2 doses given 3 weeks apart.

Does my provider recommend the COVID-19 vaccine for their patients?

While the decision to vaccinate your child must be made as a family, Northshore Pediatrics is following the AAP, CDC, and FDA's recommendation to vaccinate all children age 5 and up. Approximately 1.9 million children ages 5-11 have been infected with COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic, more than 8,000 patients in this age group have been hospitalized, and COVID-19 is in the top 10 causes of death for this age group. In addition, the mental toll the pandemic has taken on children and their families has been far reaching. It has been shown that the benefits of vaccination outweigh the risks of the vaccine.

What side effects can I expect my child to have after the COVID-19 vaccine?

The most common reported side effects experienced by children in this age group are pain at injection site, fatigue, headache, chills, muscle pain, and fever.

Do I need to be concerned about my child getting myocarditis after the COVID-19 vaccine?

While studies in this age group are still ongoing, none of the patients ages 5-11 enrolled in the clinical trial by Pfizer have developed myocarditis after vaccination. For the few patients 12 and older who did get vaccine related myocarditis, their case was mild and almost all resolved in 3 months. The risk of developing myocarditis after COVID infection is higher than developing it after a vaccination. If your child has a history of heart disease or there is a family history of heart disease, and you have concern, please feel free to reach out to your cardiologist or one of our providers to discuss the vaccine prior to your appointment.

Do I have to wait if my child has received other vaccines recently or before receiving another vaccine?

No. The COVID vaccine can be given on the same day, or as soon as the day after/before most vaccines given in this age group, including the flu vaccine. **Please ask a provider if your child has received or is scheduled to receive a live vaccine (such as MMRV) within 2 weeks of the COVID vaccine.**

Can my child receive the COVID vaccine if they have already had COVID-19?

Yes and it is recommended. Some people only build little or limited immunity post Covid-19 infection and for some it can quickly wane. Data clearly shows vaccine immunity is more effective than natural immunity. Getting the vaccine is a great way to strengthen your child's immune response, protecting them more. As long as your child (and anyone accompanying them to the visit), is no longer in quarantine for COVID, or exposure to COVID, they can receive the COVID vaccine.

Here are some helpful links if you have other questions:

[AAP – FDA Panel, Benefits of COVID19 vaccine for ages 5-11 outweighs risks](#)

[Childrens Hospital - information on COVID Vaccine](#)

[How to help your child when getting a vaccine](#)

[FDA Authorization for Emergency Use in Children 5-11 years of age](#)

[How do COVID-19 mRNA vaccines work?](#)