



Kids 5 - 11 Can Now Be Vaccinated Against COVID-19!

Frequently Asked Questions

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends COVID-19 vaccination for all children ages 5 years and older. Please talk to your Primary Care Provider for specific questions about your child's health.

What is the COVID-19 vaccine for children 5-11 years-old?

- Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11 is one-third (1/3) of an adult dose.
- It is two doses three weeks apart.
- Clinical trials have shown the vaccine is 90.7% effective against symptomatic COVID-19. The antibodies after the vaccine are similar to that seen for people 16 to 26 years old.

I heard kids don't get as sick as adults. Why should my child get the COVID-19 vaccine?

- The AAP urges parents not to wait. Children are still at risk of getting sick. More children are being hospitalized with the additional variants than in the past. Children have still gotten very sick (8,300 children ages 5-11 have been hospitalized) and died (172 as of November 3, 2021).
- Children who contract COVID-19 are also at risk of long-term health conditions and complications. Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) is one of these potential complications. MIS-C is a condition where different body parts become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or stomach organs. Over 5,200 cases of MIS-C have been reported.
- Children can also be medically vulnerable and should get the vaccine as soon as possible. Kids with conditions that put them at higher risk for severe disease. These diseases include obesity, chronic lung conditions, diabetes, kidney disease and high blood pressure.
- Families with babies, pregnant people, grandparents or other vulnerable people should vaccinate their children to protect their other family members.
- The AAP, FDA, and CDC have determined that the risk of contracting COVID-19 far outweigh the risks of the vaccine.

Is the vaccine safe? What are the common side effects?

- The most common side effects were similar to other age groups who have had COVID-19 vaccines. These include pain at the injection site, fatigue, headache and muscle ache.

Kids usually feel better within 1-3 days. The recommendation is parents give children the appropriate dose of Tylenol or acetaminophen only if needed if the child feels feverish or has body aches.

- In Pfizer's clinical trials, there were no cases of myocarditis (or inflammation of the heart). In general, inflammation of the heart is far, far less common in children than adolescents, likely because of adolescent hormones. The smaller dose for children also reduces the risk.

What if my child has already had COVID-19?

- Children who have already had COVID-19 should receive the COVID-19 vaccination, according to CDC guidelines.
- If your child had COVID-19 in the past 90 days, your doctor will probably recommend you wait 90 days before getting your child vaccinated. Please ask your doctor.

If my child is 11, should we wait to get them the higher, adult dose at age 12?

- AAP recommends getting your child the vaccine as soon as you can. The lower dose provides as much as an immune response as in older kids, with less side effects.
- If your child turns 12 very soon, you may wait. However, the dose for the 5-11 year-olds does provide enough protection.
- If your child turns 12 between their first and second dose, AAP suggests sticking with the lower dose.

Where can I get the COVID-19 vaccine for my 5-11 year-old?

- The vaccine is free to anyone in the United States, regardless of immigration status. You do not need to be a patient of the clinic or pharmacy to receive the vaccine at that location.
- In Grand County, you can get the Pfizer 5-11 year-old vaccine at:
 - Grand County Public Health: 970-725-3288 or www.co.grand.co.us/vaccine;
 - Friday, November 12 from 9 am – noon at Middle Park High School; 1pm – 3:30 at Kremmling Library.
 - And Friday, December 3 from 9 am – noon at Middle Park High School; 1pm – 3:30 pm at Kremmling Library
 - Nurses available on-site at vaccine clinics to answer general questions.
 - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment:
 - Located at Mountain Family Center, 480 E. Agate Ave, Granby.
 - Tuesday, November 23 from 2-4 pm. No appointment necessary.
 - Thursday, December 9 from 2-4 pm. No appointment necessary
 - City Market: <https://www.citymarket.com/rx/guest/get-vaccinated>
 - Fraser Medical Clinic: 970-726-6778
 - Byers Peak Family Medicine: 970-722-0300
- If you need help getting to the vaccine location, please call Grand County Rural Health Network at 970-725-3477. Gas vouchers can be provided.

Can my child get other vaccines at the same time or around the same time as the COVID-19 vaccine?

- Children can get vaccines at the same time or around the same time as the COVID-19 vaccine. This includes seasonal flu and other routine vaccines for the child at the age.

Why is the vaccine important?

- The weather is getting colder, which means more indoor activities. We know that COVID-19 spreads much easier indoors. Vaccinating your child can help protect them, you and your family, and reduce the spread of disease.
- Vaccinating your child will help reduce the spread of disease. This helps reduce the potential of variants occurring.
- The vaccine helps kids get back to normal life! Getting your child vaccinated now will help your family, and society, get back to normal quicker – especially for the holidays.

When will my child be considered fully vaccinated?

- The Pfizer ages 5-11 vaccine is a two dose series, scheduled at minimum 3 weeks apart. Your child will be fully vaccinated two weeks after the second dose.

Sources:

- *Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment:* <https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine-faq#top10>
- *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:* <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/planning/children.html>
- *American Academy of Pediatrics:* <https://www.aap.org/en/pages/covid-19-vaccines-in-children-and-adolescents-policy/>