

What are the vaccine side effects that are being seen in the kids getting the vaccine?

- Fatigue, headache, muscle pain - worse with dose 2
- Fever/ chills less than older children/ adults
- Rare lymphadenopathy and rash
- 5 severe adverse events, none linked to vaccine: swallowed penny, fractures, infected joint
- 0 deaths
- 0 cases of myocarditis
- Expect 26 cases of myocarditis per 1 million doses given. Vaccine induced myocarditis much less severe than COVID induced myocarditis. Myocarditis after COVID disease is 37x more frequent and severe for children under 16y.

Why should I get my 5-11 year old vaccinated?

- 6.3 million COVID cases in children, 1.9million in this age group, sharp increase during Delta (representing up to 10% of cases at one point)
- 25K hosp (>8K in this age group), 30% had no underlying conditions, higher than typical flu season
- 5K with MIS-C, highest in this age group
- Over 600 deaths (94 in this age group)
- 7-8% of kids with long COVID
- COVID is now the 8th leading cause of death in children (6th in last few months)
- Vaccine showed 90-100% efficacy and NO severe disease

Primary goals with vaccination:

- Prevent illness, hospitalization and death
- Prevent missed days of school and learning loss - from illness but also avoiding quarantine after exposure
- Prevent long COVID

Secondary goals with vaccination:

- Vaccinating the children can help protect the community: those who are not immunized; those who are immunized but may still have poor response to the vaccine; those who are immunized but still at high risk of complications

I'm worried the vaccine was rushed and we need more data for children. Do you think it's safe?

- Speed does not mean rushed
- Money & research from around the world to help fund the science
- Less red tape than normal trials
- High rates of cases in the community allowed us to practice in real time
- High rates of volunteers
- mRNA technology isn't "brand new." Prior research in mRNA technology since 1960, first trials in early 2000s. mRNA vaccine does not contain pathogen particles; it is very fragile, degrades and is eliminated quickly.
- Historically with all vaccines, serious side effects occur within the first 2 months of rollout. We have more than 12 months of data. Millions of 12yo+ already having received vaccine - no reason to believe track record will be different than teens/ adults

Was the Pfizer sample size a large enough representative sample size and do you believe the benefits outweigh the risks?

- About 2200 (1500 vaccine recipients) monitored at least 2 months past 2nd dose
- Additional 2300 (1500 vaccine recipients) added on to monitor at least 2 weeks past 2nd dose

The efficacy is SO good at 90-100%. If you increase the sample size, you are putting more of the placebo recipients at risk of getting illness during the pandemic.

Will 2 shots and boosters be required? What about kids that have had covid?

- 2 shots 21-42 days apart
- We don't yet know about boosters beyond that, it's being studied now.
- If you have had COVID disease, efficacy of natural immunity is high, but wanes over time. Vaccination strengthens the immune response (antibodies and T-cell memory).
- If child had COVID, they should wait until the 10 day isolation period is done and they are feeling well enough to get a vaccine.

What if I have a large 10 year old, shouldn't they get the 12 year old dose? What if my child is turning 12 soon, should I wait to get vaccinated? What if my child is 11 for their first dose and turns 12 during the wait for dose 2?

- Vaccinations have never been based on weight or size, but they are based on the immune system response. At a routine 4 month old visits, vaccination doses are the same for a 12 pound ex-premature baby and a 25 pound baby. An adult that is a petite woman gets the same dose as a 300 pound football player.
- We recommend your child get the first dose whenever it's available to them. If they are 11, they should get the lower dose. If they are 12, they should get the higher dose.
- If your child turns 12 between dose 1 and 2, we recommend they get the age appropriate dose.

If my child received their first dose outside of CAP, can we come to CAP for dose 2?

- At this time, we cannot guarantee 2nd doses to patients that received them outside of CAP. Our supply is provided and counted by the health department. Please check back with us in the coming weeks as the supply becomes more plentiful and accessible and we may be able to accommodate.

Are there any children you would particularly want to see vaccinated and any you would advise not to get vaccinated?

- All children age 5-11y, but highest risk populations should absolutely get vaccinated as soon as they can including those with obesity, diabetes, cancer/ immunosuppressed, transplant recipient, chronic kidney/ liver/ lung/ heart disease, Down's syndrome, sickle cell disease.
- Contraindication if known allergic reaction to component of vaccine specifically PEG or polysorbate. Anyone with prior serious medical issues should always discuss with their pediatrician and/ or specialist.

If my child has known allergies to foods or medications, can we still vaccinate?

- The only contraindication is allergy to components in the COVID vaccine, particularly PEG and polysorbate. If your child has a history of known anaphylaxis to anything, we ask they remain for 30 minutes after their vaccine, instead of 15 minutes.

If my child has had a reaction to a vaccine in the past, should we still vaccinate?

- In all likelihood, yes your child can still get the COVID vaccine. Please speak to your provider regarding specific details of vaccine reactions that seemed severe. Of note, these reactions should have a prior documentation in your child's medical record rather than just verbal history.

If my child woke up sick, can they still receive their vaccination that day?

If they are sick with any symptoms (cough, cold, sore throat, fever, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, body aches), they should get COVID tested (in addition to other testing as decided by their practitioner).

- If they are COVID positive, they should be isolating for 10 days and then can receive their vaccine if they are feeling better.
- If they are COVID negative and are feeling well enough to get a vaccine, they can receive their vaccination that day.

If my child is on antibiotics, can they still receive their vaccine?

- Yes, as long as they are generally feeling improved. The antibiotic will have no effect on the vaccine.

Can my child receive the COVID vaccine and flu vaccine (or other vaccines) on the same day?

- At CAP, our COVID clinics are not able to do this due to staffing and space issues. But practically, YES it is safe to get both on the same day or a few days apart. Consider how your child normally reacts to vaccines and how that will affect your decision on timing.