

# COVID VACCINE – 5-11 YEAR-OLDS

IS YOUR CHILD ELIGIBLE?

IS THE VACCINE SAFE FOR CHILDREN?

WHERE CAN YOUR CHILD GET VACCINATED?



**COVID-19 VACCINE  
BREAKTHROUGH**



# COVID VACCINE FAQ

- Can the COVID vaccine give my child coronavirus?
  - No. None of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus, so it cannot make your child sick. The current vaccines give the body instructions which help it recognize the virus, so the body can fight it off in the future if exposed to coronavirus.
- Once my child is vaccinated will they test positive on a COVID-19 test?
  - No. Your child will not test positive on a viral COVID-19 test from the vaccine. This does not mean that they cannot possibly test positive for COVID-19 once they are fully vaccinated. There have been a small percentage vaccinated people who have become infected with coronavirus and passed the virus to others. The vaccine prevents them from becoming severely ill with COVID-19, and less likely to catch the virus. There is also the possibility they may test positive on a COVID antibody test, as the vaccine causes the body to develop an immune response.
- Does the vaccine have any side effects?
  - Your child may experience some mild side effects, such as sore arm, low-grade fever, headache, tiredness. It is a normal sign that the vaccine is helping their body build immunity against the coronavirus. Here are Fact Sheets about the Pfizer doses available to children: [5-11 years old](#) || [12-17 years old](#) include possible side effect of various levels of seriousness.
- Will they have to quarantine and miss school after getting the vaccine?
  - Receiving the vaccine does not require quarantine. However, it will take two weeks for your child's body to build up a sufficient immune response after being vaccinated (2 shots). So they can become infected with COVID-19 just before or after vaccination. If they have symptoms of COVID-19 (and not just side effects of the vaccine) or come into contact with someone who has tested positive: talk with their doctor, get them tested and quarantine until they receive negative test results.

# COVID VACCINE FAQ

- Why does the vaccine require two shots?
  - The Pfizer vaccine needs two shots to be effective. The first shot prepares the immune system to recognize the virus, and the second shot strengthens the immune system. It is very important to receive both doses from the same manufacturer within the required time frame for best protection. For the Pfizer vaccine your child will receive the second dose 21 days (3 weeks) after the first.
- If my child has a medical condition or had a serious illness in the past, is the vaccine safe for them?
  - The vaccine is proven safe for most people, including those with medical conditions, as long as they have not had an immediate or severe allergic reaction to a previous COVID vaccine. Before getting vaccinated talk with your child's doctor about their specific situation. Some immunocompromised children will be encouraged to receive a 3<sup>rd</sup> shot 28 days after the 2<sup>nd</sup> shot.
- Do the new variants spread more easily and more quickly?
  - Yes. Some variants of coronavirus spread more easily, so it is important to continue wearing a mask and social distancing. Your child can help slow the spread by getting the vaccine as soon as they are able.
- If my child already had COVID-19, do they still need the vaccine? Aren't they immune?
  - Your child should still get the COVID vaccine, even if they have had COVID-19 in the past. The information on "natural immunity" is sparse and early evidence suggests that it may not last very long. Vaccination is your child's best bet for true immunity from severe illness caused by coronavirus.

# COVID VACCINE FAQ

- Do I have to pay for the vaccine?
  - No. You will not be charged any fees for the vaccine, regardless of if you have health insurance coverage or not. If you do have health insurance, the vaccine provider may choose to charge your insurance an administrative fee, but you will not have to pay anything out of pocket.
- Do I need to be present for my child to get vaccinated?
  - Yes. Any child aged 17 and under must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian to receive the vaccine.
- Does my child still need to wear a mask if they fully vaccinated?
  - Yes. Though the vaccine will prevent your child from becoming seriously ill with COVID-19 if they are exposed to the coronavirus, it may not prevent them from infecting someone else with the virus. Until a large majority of the population is vaccinated, creating “herd immunity,” we must all continue to do our part to protect others from the virus by wearing a mask when we are in public spaces.
- Does my child still need to be socially distanced from others if they fully vaccinated?
  - Yes. As we work to eliminate the virus through vaccination, we must continue to follow guidelines like distancing, masks, and increased cleaning to prevent more people from getting sick with COVID-19 before they can get vaccinated.
- Which vaccine will my child be receiving?
  - The vaccine your child receives will be the Pfizer vaccine (pediatric dosage). It is the only COVID-19 vaccine approved for children aged 5 to 17 years old. Not all vaccination locations may currently have the children doses for 5-11 year-olds; it is best to check with the location before scheduling an appointment.

# HOW IS THE KID VACCINE (5-11) DIFFERENT FROM THE ADULT VACCINE (12+)?

- All children between the ages of 5 and 17 may only receive the Pfizer vaccine.
  - Children between 5 and 11 will receive a smaller dosage of the vaccine (please check with the vaccine provider that they carry the appropriate vaccine and dosage for your child).
- The Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5-11 has the same active ingredients as the vaccine given to adults and older children.
  - However, the children ages 5-11 will receive a vaccination dose that is 1/3 (one-third) of the adult dose.
- Smaller needles, specifically designed for children, will be used to administer that vaccine to children ages 5-11.
- Children 5-11 years-old will also need a 2nd shot 3 weeks (21 days) after their first one – the same as for adults and older children who received the adult dose of the Pfizer vaccine.
  - 2 weeks after receiving the second shot, your child will be considered fully vaccinated.

## HOW DOES THE VACCINE WORK?

- **mRNA** (Pfizer/Moderna) vaccines
  - Messenger RNA vaccines take advantage of the process that cells use to make proteins in order to trigger an immune response and build immunity to SARS-CoV-2 (the COVID-19 virus). The mRNA are the “instructions” for the cell on how to make a piece of the “spike protein” that is unique to SARS-CoV-2, but not the whole protein, so the person does not become sick with COVID-19.
  - The technology is new, but not unknown – scientists have been studying them for more than a decade to protect the public from viral respiratory illnesses.
  - This vaccine does not contain the live virus, so it cannot infect you with COVID-19. The mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell and does not affect or interact with a person’s DNA
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/mrna-vaccine-basics.html>
  - American Academy of Pediatrics video for kids about How mRNA Vaccines Work: <https://youtu.be/YOlrNlvEiMw>

## HOW PREPARE MY CHILD FOR GETTING THE VACCINE?

- Here are some resources on how to talk about getting the COVID-19 vaccine with your 5-11 year-old:
  - [20 Things to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines for Kids under 12](#) from University of Michigan Health
  - [5 Ways to Prepare Your Child for the COVID Vaccine](#) from University of Michigan Health
  - [Vaccines for Your Children: Before, During, and After Shots](#) from the CDC
  - [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#) from the CDC
  - [Some Parents Want to Wait to Vaccinate Their Kids. Here's Why Doctors Say Do It Now](#) from NPR

## ELIGIBILITY

- All Children aged 5-17 are eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.
- Children who are 12-17 years-old may receive the full adult dosage of the Pfizer vaccine.
- Children who are 5-11 years-old will receive a lower children's dosage (1/3 the dosage) of the Pfizer vaccine.
- Not all vaccine providers (county health departments, pharmacies, retail stores, hospitals, clinics, etc.) will have the appropriate 5-11 year-old Pfizer dosages in stock yet. Please check with the vaccine provider to make the appropriate appointment for your child.
- Children who are immunocompromised are also eligible to receive a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of the Pfizer vaccine – 28 days after their 2nd dose.

# WHERE CAN MY CHILD GET VACCINATED? – HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

## **Ascension Michigan (as of November 4 2021)**

- Ascension is currently offering the Pfizer vaccine to everyone aged 12 and older. They have not started with vaccinating children 5-11 years old yet.

## **Beaumont Health (as of November 4, 2021)**

- Pediatric vaccines will be offered at Beaumont Hospital on November 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, and at Beaumont Service Center in Southfield on November 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. Online registration with a limited number of appointments will begin online early next week. Children will need a MyBeaumontChart account with parental access enabled – access may be requested if you are not a Beaumont patient. Pediatric vaccines will not be given as walk-ins.

## **Detroit Medical Center (as of November 4, 2021)**

- You can fill out a [vaccination request form online](#) for your child and schedulers will contact you if they meet eligibility requirements [currently only children aged 12-17 – this will likely be updated soon].

## **Henry Ford Health System (as of November 4, 2021)**

- Henry Ford Health System will begin administering COVID vaccines to children 5-11 years old at Family Medicine and Pediatrics clinics later this month. Child vaccinations will only be available to children who are established Henry Ford patients. You will be able to schedule an appointment for your child using MyChart later in the month.

## **McLaren (As of November 4, 2021)**

- McLaren is currently providing a variety of Drive-Through Vaccine Events in Davison, MI (for patients aged 12+). They do not have information about children ages 5-11 yet.

# WHERE CAN MY CHILD GET VACCINATED? – HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

## [Sparrow Health \(as of November 4, 2021\)](#)

- Not yet updated to include children aged 5-11, children aged 12-17 can currently schedule appointments. You can schedule appointments through the MySparrow App; or over the phone by calling **(877) 205-1300**. If you have question about the vaccine, you can call **(517) 371-9500**.

## [Spectrum Health \(as of November 4, 2021\)](#)

- Not yet updated to include children aged 5-11, children aged 12-17 can currently schedule appointments. If your child has a Spectrum Health MyChart account, you can schedule your child's vaccination through the account. If you are not a Spectrum patient, you can call their COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center at **(833) 755-0696** 8am-8pm every day to schedule your child's appointment.

## [University of Michigan Health \(as of November 4, 2021\)](#)

- Vaccinations for children ages 5-11 will be offered by appointment only starting Monday November 8, 2021. Appointments can be made starting Friday November 5, 2021. You can schedule your child's appointment through the MyUofMHealth patient portal, or by calling the COVID-19 Vaccine Scheduling Center at **(734) 763-6336**. Only 1 adult may come with the child to the appointment to maintain social distancing.
- Or call your child's doctor to see if they are providing pediatric patients with COVID vaccines and how to schedule an appointment.

# WHERE CAN MY CHILD GET VACCINATED? – COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

## **Livingston (as of November 4, 2021)**

- Children 5-11 years old may be signed up for a vaccination appointment on the Livingston County Health Department's [website](#). Click COVID Vaccination and then select "Pediatric COVIC clinic: PFIZER Vaccine (Ages 5-11) Dose 1". Dose 2 will be automatically scheduled. Appointments are limited.

## **Macomb (as of November 4, 2021)**

- Appointments for children ages 5-11 can now be made on the Macomb County Health Department's [website](#). You must also complete the appropriate Vaccine form for your child: [5-11 years old](#) || [12-17 years old](#) (the same one as for adults). Only 1 parent or guardian may accompany the child into the building. Other children who are not being vaccinated may not come into the building. The two vaccination sites alternate days.

## **Oakland (ss of November 4, 2021)**

- Appointments for children ages 5-11 are available via the Oakland County Health Department's [website](#). Vaccination clinics are mostly at public schools during specific times on specific days. Please make sure that you are choosing the appropriate age group.

# WHERE CAN MY CHILD GET VACCINATED? – COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

## Wayne (as of November 4, 2021)

- Vaccination appointments can be made on the Wayne County Health Department's website. Children ages 5-11 can only be vaccinated at some locations. Make sure to select "1<sup>st</sup> Appointment (Must be 5 years old to Receive Pfizer Vaccine)" when choosing the appointment to ensure that your young child receives the correct dosage. Current locations with appointments for 5-11 year-olds: [Wayne County Community College - Downriver Campus](#) (Taylor, MI); [Wayne County Community College - Ted Scott Campus](#) (Belleville, MI); [Wayne Health Center](#) (Wayne, MI). You can also make appointments by calling **(866) 610-3885** 9am-5pm.

## Washtenaw (as of November 4, 2021)

- Vaccination appointments for children ages 5-11 can be made for time slots starting Tuesday, November 9, 2021. Available appointments will be posted at Noon on Friday, November 5, 2021 and Monday, November 8, 2021 via the County's [website](#). To schedule an appointment over the phone, call **(734) 544-6700** starting Friday, November 5, 2021. You do not need to be a county resident to receive the vaccine.

# WHERE CAN MY CHILD GET VACCINATED? – PHARMACIES

## **CVS (as of November 4, 2021)**

- Vaccine appointments for children ages 5-11 can now be made for appointments beginning Sunday, November 7, 2021 in select stores. You can schedule your child's appointment via their [website](#). Select the date you would like to schedule for and you will be given a list of store locations with available appointment times.

## **Dearborn Pharmacy and Apothecary (as of November 4, 2021)**

- You can schedule a vaccine appointment via their [website](#). Make sure to click "COVID-19 Pfizer ages 5-11 years" and you will be able to pick an appointment date and time.

## **Rite Aid (as of November 4, 2021)**

- Vaccine appointments can now be made for children ages 5-11. Only at select stores: Macomb - New Haven, Warren; Oakland - Pontiac (3 stores); Washtenaw – Ypsilanti; Wayne – Dearborn, Detroit (9 stores), Melvindale, Taylor, Wayne. You can schedule the appointment on their [website](#). You can complete the [Consent Form](#) before your appointment as well. Some pharmacies will close 1-2 hours early throughout the week to prep for the following day (call yours). Walk-ins only available 2pm-3pm daily.

## **Walgreens (as of November 4, 2021)**

- Vaccine appointments for children ages 5-11 will be available at select stores beginning Saturday, November 6, 2021. You can schedule appointments now on their [website](#). Put in your zip code when scheduling to receive a list of locations near you and available appointment time slots.

# WHERE CAN MY CHILD GET VACCINATED? – RETAIL STORES

## **Kroger (as of November 4, 2021)**

- Kroger’s website has not yet been updated to allow for scheduling appointments of children ages 5-11. When appointments are available, you can schedule them on their [website](#). You may want to call your local Kroger’s Pharmacy department to see if they are able to schedule your child over the phone or to find out when appointments may become available.

## **Meijer (as of November 4, 2021)**

- You can now schedule an appointment for your children ages 5-11 using Meijer’s scheduling [website](#). If you don’t already have a pharmacy account with Meijer, you will have to create one. Choose the “COVID-19 Pediatric age 5-11” option when scheduling. You can also Text “COVID” to 75049 to schedule an appointment, or call your local Meijer Pharmacy.

## **Walmart (as of November 4, 2021)**

- Appointments can be scheduled from Walmart’s [website](#). You must create an account (or use an account you already have) to schedule a vaccine appointment. It does not seem like their website has been updated to include 5-11 year-olds at this time.

# WHAT TO BRING TO YOUR CHILD'S APPOINTMENT

- Bring something to confirm your identity (name, residency).
  - Driver's license or State ID
  - Work ID/Student ID/Pay stub
  - Paperwork with your name/address (utility bill, bank statement, etc)
- Appointment confirmation
- Vaccination/Consent form (some locations)
- Each vaccination location will have their own requirements, so make sure to check what to bring when signing up for your appointment.
- **WEAR A MASK!** Wearing 2 is even better (paper medical mask with a cloth mask over top). Make sure that mask is covering both the nose and mouth, with no gaps (around nose, cheeks & chin) that allow respiratory droplets in or out.
- When returning for your child's 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, make sure to bring their Vaccination Card with you.

# WHAT TO DO AFTER YOUR CHILD'S VACCINATION

- Make sure you receive your child's Vaccination Card from the healthcare provider who administers their 1<sup>st</sup> dose. This card will list your child's name, the vaccination they received (and when) and the date for their 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination (if scheduled when they receive their 1<sup>st</sup> dose).
- Make sure your child drinks plenty of fluids and gets some rest. They may experience flu-like side effects as their body uses the vaccine to build an immune response to the virus.
- If you believe your child is having a severe allergic reaction, contact your doctor and emergency services.
- Monitor your child's temperature if they are feeling feverish.
- Your child should continue to wear their mask, social distancing, and washing their hands frequently. They can still catch COVID-19 between doses and become ill. There have also been instances of fully-vaccinated people catching coronavirus and being asymptomatic and passing the virus onto unvaccinated people. The vaccine will protect them from becoming seriously ill or dying from COVID-19 but we must all still do our part to prevent ourselves from catching the virus and spreading it to others, especially those who are not yet vaccinated.

## COMMON VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS

- **\* Side effects after a vaccination are normal and a sign that your body is using the vaccine to build up its immunity response to the virus.**
- Injection site pain/swelling/rash
  - Pain in upper arm when moving arm or pressing injection site area, the site might also have mild swelling, or warmth (this seems to be the most common side effect for 5-11 year-olds)
  - A red color rash around the injection site, called “COVID arm” is a normal response in the 1-2 weeks after injection. If the rash is itchy or painful you can take an antihistamine or pain reliever. Make sure to tell your vaccine provider of this reaction; the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose may be given in the opposite arm.
- Low-grade Fever (100.4°F) /chills
- Headache
- Body Aches/Muscle Pain
- Fatigue/Tiredness
- Nausea or diarrhea

## COMMON VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS

- Severe allergic reactions are rare and usually occur within a few minutes of injection (or up to 4 hours after). There is a mandatory 15-30 minute waiting period after injection to check for reactions. If your child is prone to severe vaccination/medication allergy reactions, make sure to tell the healthcare provider giving them the vaccine, so that they make keep an eye on your child's reaction and provide medical assistance if needed.
- If your child has a severe reaction (requiring Epinephrine injection or hospital visit) they should not get the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the vaccine without speaking with your doctor
- Allergic reactions may include: hives, swelling, wheezing
- **\* If your child has a severe reaction or their side effects do not improve after several days, call your doctor or emergency services (if they cannot breathe).**
- Side effects of the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose may be more severe than after the 1<sup>st</sup> dose.
- Side effects will vary person to person. Side effects for the lower children's dose may be less severe than those experienced by those who received the higher dosage.

## HOW TO TREAT VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS

- Drink 8-16oz of water in the 1-2 hours *before* the vaccination appointment.
- To relieve injection site swelling, cover the area with a cool, wet washcloth
- To relieve injection site pain, have your child try to move their arm to relieve the muscle tension which causes the arm pain
- Drink plenty of fluids *after* the vaccination
- Aspirin and other pain relievers are **not recommended** for children under the age of 18. Please speak with your doctor if your child is experience severe pain.
- Rest/take it easy for a few days
- If your child has a fever over 100.4°F, they should stay home from school and rest. They should not return to school until 24 hours after their fever is gone without the use of medication. If their fever climbs even higher (101-103°F), call your doctor.

# HOW TO REPORT YOUR CHILD'S SIDE EFFECTS

- **\* If your child is having a severe allergic reaction, call emergency services and your healthcare provider.**

## [V-Safe After Vaccination Health Checker](#) - CDC

- Smartphone App
- Uses text messaging & web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after a COVID vaccination.
- [Register for V-Safe](#), then enter information about the COVID vaccine your child received. Now you can start their health check-ins.
  - If you register before 2pm, your initial check-in will start around 2pm that day. If you register after 2pm, you check-in will start immediately after registration.
  - If you need help with V-Safe you can call **(800) 232-4636** (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or submit a comment via the [CDC Contact Form](#).

## [VAERS](#) (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) - HHS

- Report an Adverse Event using the [VAERS Online Form](#) or use the [fillable PDF form](#) and upload the form back to the VAERS website
- If you need help reporting your child's reaction, email [info@VAERS.org](mailto:info@VAERS.org) or call **(800) 822-7967**.

# HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP SCHEDULING AN APPOINTMENT

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services COVID Information Hotline - **(888) 535-6136 (Press 1)**  
[Mon-Fri 8am-5pm; Sat-Sun 8am-1pm]
- You can also call the McLaren Covid-19 Hotline with any questions – **(810) 344-4050**

## [Find A Shot](#)

- Find a Shot is an easy way to find vaccination in Pharmacies and Retail stores in Michigan. It will link you directly to the providers scheduling website. You will have to look at the provider's site to see if they are scheduling for 5-11 year-olds.

## [VaccineFinder \(as of November 4, 2021\).](#)

- VaccineFinder can be used to search locations and clinics near you that are offering COVID vaccinations. You can also narrow the search by vaccine manufacturer (Moderna, Pfizer, & Johnson & Johnson). It has now been updated to include children 5-11 years old.
- If you need help finding a place to get a vaccine, or advice on scheduling the Facebook group “[Detroit Area Vaccine Hunters – Michigan](#)” is very helpful. However, the members of the group are not professionals and any information they provide about the vaccine should be fact-checked.