COVID-19 PEDIATRIC VACCINE FAQs

Why is it important for my child to get vaccinated for COVID-19?

COVID-19 vaccines help stop people from getting very sick, ending up in the hospital, or dying because of COVID-19. Although children with COVID-19 often have milder symptoms than adults, studies have shown they are infected at similar rates, can get sick from COVID-19, and spread it to others. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is the best way to keep children healthy so they can safely get back to their normal activities.

Which type of vaccines are authorized for children?

The FDA and CDC authorized and recommended through emergency use authorization the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 and older. This vaccine is the only one authorized for children ages 5 and older right now. Pfizer-BioNTech's primary vaccine series consists of two doses given 21 days apart.

For children who are immunocompromised, they may receive an additional dose 28 days after their second dose.

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe and effective for children?

Yes, the COVID-19 vaccines are safe and work well for children. These vaccines have been fully tested in clinical trials and meet the FDA's standards for safety and effectiveness. Additional testing specifically for children showed that the best dose for kids ages 5-11 that maximizes protection and minimizes side effects, is smaller than the adult vaccine dose. The FDA's teams of doctors, scientists, and other experts reviewed all the findings of these large studies when making their decision about COVID-19 vaccines in young children.

My child has already had COVID-19, should they still receive a vaccine?

Yes, your child should be vaccinated whether or not they already had COVID-19. Research has not yet shown how long you are protected from getting COVID-19 again after you recover. Vaccination will help protect your child even if they already had COVID-19.

Where can I take my child to get their COVID-19 vaccine?

Your children who are age 5 or older can now receive the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine from a large network of vaccine providers across Kansas including doctor's offices, pharmacies, local health departments and clinics. For more information, please contact your local provider. You can also use the CDC's Vaccine Finder Tool to find and make vaccine appointments: Vaccines.gov.

When can my child get a COVID-19 vaccine and booster?

For your children age 5 or older, the vaccine is available now. Those ages 12-17 who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should get a Pfizer booster 3 months after getting their additional dose. Children under the age of 5 are not yet eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. The CDC and FDA will continue to research vaccines and may soon have vaccines available for children under the age of 5.

How can I learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine for children?

Talk with your children's doctor or local health department about any COVID-19 vaccine questions you may have. For more information, visit the KDHE website at KansasVaccine.gov or contact the KDHE hotline at 866-534-3463 (866-KDHEINF), Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m to 5:00 p.m. You can also visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) website for more information: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/children-teens.html.

NEXT STEPS: HOW DO I GET THE VACCINE?

The CDC's Vaccine Finder Tool helps individuals find and schedule a vaccine appt: Vaccines.gov.