

For Healthcare Providers: FAQs on Vaccinating Children Aged 5-11

General FAQs on Vaccinating Children

1. Why is it important to vaccinate children against COVID-19?

Vaccinating children helps prevent them from contracting COVID-19 and reduces the risk of long-lasting negative effects on health due to the virus. Vaccinating children also helps protect family members and friends who may be at greater risk of severe illness if infected.

2. Which vaccine can children receive?

Currently, all Kansans 5+ are eligible to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are approved only for those 18+.

3. Is parental or guardian consent required for a child to receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

Parental or guardian consent is required for minors to receive COVID-19 vaccines.

4. What is the dosage for children aged 5-11?

The dosage is 10 micrograms of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children aged 5-11. This is 1/3 the dosage given for people 12 and older.

5. Is the Pfizer vaccine for children different from the Pfizer vaccine for adults?

Yes. The Pfizer vaccine for children has the same ingredients as that for adults; however, the preparation for the 5-11 children's vaccine is different from that of the 12+ vaccine. Given these differences, for individuals 12+, it is important to use the vials with purple caps. For children aged 5-11, use the vials with orange caps.

Additionally, the injection volume for the children's 5-11 vaccine is 0.2mL whereas the injection volume for 12+ is 0.3mL.

6. What are common side effects children may experience after receiving the vaccine?

Common side effects after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine include tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, and nausea, as well as pain, redness, or swelling in the arm in which the vaccine was administered.

7. Where should I report adverse reactions?

Report adverse reactions to the US Department of Health and Human Services' Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>.

8. How do I speak to parents about vaccinating their children?

The CDC has developed a set of best practices to help providers talk to parents about vaccinating their children against COVID-19, available [here](#).

This toolkit also includes copies of the CDC's promotional posters and graphics specifically aimed at children and teens.

9. Will Moderna and Johnson & Johnson be releasing vaccines for children aged 5-11?

Moderna's and Johnson & Johnson's vaccines are still undergoing testing and review for use in patients under 18. As of now, there is no clear timeline for use of these vaccines in children.

10. Where can I find more information on COVID-19 vaccines for children and teens?

Consult the CDC's [page](#) on COVID-19 vaccines for children and teens.

11. Why are providers involved in this effort if Local Health Departments and KDHE have been administering most vaccines to-date?

Healthcare providers play an essential role in reaching Kansans who have not yet had access to the vaccine and helping hesitant Kansans get comfortable with the vaccine. Individual providers are Kansans' most trusted medical advisors and so play a key role in the education process for those who have not yet gotten vaccinated.

12. What kinds of patient communication materials can KDHE provide to me to conduct patient outreach?

KDHE will do all it can to support providers in the effort to vaccinate children. Materials will be provided via email and on a provider purpose-built portal covering instructions on mail merge, SMS / email templates, consent forms, and informational one-pagers.

Logistics FAQs

13. Where can I enroll as a provider?

Visit KDHE's [page on enrolling as a vaccine provider](#), review the Provider Agreement and Enrollment Checklist, and follow the link at the bottom of the page to begin the electronic enrollment process.

For additional guidance, consult KDHE's [provider manual](#).

14. How do I order vaccines?

Providers will place orders weekly through the vaccine ordering survey, which has been amended to include pediatric doses.

Providers ordering in increments of 300 doses will have vaccine and supplies shipped directly to them; other quantities will be shipped to KDHE and then distributed to providers.

15. Are there rules around which groups of Kansans to prioritize?

Now that Kansas is in Phase 5 of the vaccine roll-out and there is no longer a shortage of vaccines being provided by the federal government, there is no prioritization of which age group should be receiving the vaccine first.

16. What happens if I do not use all the vaccine I order, or if some doses go to waste?

Providers should not turn away willing Kansans from getting vaccinated in order to prevent unused vaccine from being wasted (although unnecessary wasting of vaccine should be minimized). Providers unable to use all doses of a vaccine once a vial is opened will not be limited in any way from being able to participate as a vaccine provider or prevented from ordering additional doses.

17. How will I be compensated for administering the vaccine if there is no out-of-pocket fee for patients?

Providers will be reimbursed ~\$40 for each dose of vaccine administered, regardless of the patient's insurance type (public, private, or uninsured). Filing for publicly and privately insured patients is the same as for other procedures, while uninsured claims can be filed through HRSA.