



Know the facts!

COVID-19 VACCINES FOR KIDS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1

When will my child get vaccinated?

COVID-19 vaccines for children ages five and older, as well as adults, are available now at numerous locations throughout Sonoma County. As pediatric vaccines roll out, please be patient as supplies and appointments may be limited.

2

Why does my child need a COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccinating children will help end the pandemic by reducing the spread of COVID-19 at school, home and the broader community. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have determined the vaccine is safe and effective for children ages five and older.

3

How and where do I schedule an appointment?

Now is a good time to reach out to your pediatrician with questions and to make an appointment. Appointments also will be available at local pharmacies through myturn.ca.gov.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

4

Aren't younger children less likely to get COVID-19?

Although children are less likely than adults to suffer severe illness from COVID, nearly 2 million U.S. children between the ages of 5 and 11 have tested positive for COVID since the pandemic began. According to a CDC analysis, the number of children admitted to the hospital increased nearly 500 percent over the summer months due primarily to the surge from the Delta variant.

5

Why should my child get a COVID-19 vaccine?

There is clear evidence that the vaccine provides strong protection for those of all age groups, including children as young as 5. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, more than 22,400 children in the United States have been hospitalized for COVID-19 and at least 680 children aged 18 and younger have died as of Nov. 3, 2021. The vaccine will not only protect your child from COVID-19, it will also help protect other members of your family, friends and people at school who may be more susceptible to severe illness. Infected children can spread the virus to others, even if they don't have any symptoms.

6

Will my child get the same dose as an adult?

No. The Pfizer vaccine for 5 to 11 year olds is one third the dose given to those 12 years and older. The existing Pfizer vaccine used for people 12 years of age and older cannot be used for younger children. Pediatric doses will be clearly marked with an orange cap and label to distinguish them from the adolescent/adult formulation. They will be shipped with smaller needles designed specifically for children ages 5 to 11.

7

How do I get my child ready to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Call your child's pediatrician or primary care doctor and tell them you're planning to have your child vaccinated. Ask questions and share any concerns you may have.

Your child can also receive routine shots at the same appointment for the COVID-19 shot. This includes getting an annual influenza shot. Ask if your child is caught up on all routine immunizations.

Talk with your child before the appointment and explain the process to them and discuss any concerns they may have.

8

Is there a fertility concern with vaccinating children before they reach puberty?

No. There is no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, can cause female or male fertility or pregnancy problems.

9

Will I have to pay for a vaccination or show proof of citizenship?

No. Vaccinations are provided at no cost to anyone regardless of immigration status. Social Security numbers or U.S. citizenship are not required.

To learn more about COVID-19 vaccines for kids, call (707) 565-4667