

mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines for Children Under 5: Dosing and Schedule

This fact sheet contains information about the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (i.e., Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech) to help you make the most informed decision possible about getting the vaccine for your child to better protect them, your loved ones, and tribal communities—both urban and rural.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) currently recommends COVID-19 vaccination for everyone ages 6 months and up.

Both vaccines received EUA for ages 6 months to 4 years on June 17, 2022. Moderna and Pfizer are both safe and effective at preventing COVID-19 for all authorized age groups. This was proven in clinical trials including over 6,000 children ages 6 months through 4 years—some of whom were American Indian/Alaska Native.¹

What is the difference between the vaccines?

While both vaccines are safe and effective, the dosing and vaccination schedule differs between Pfizer and Moderna for younger children. Understanding how many doses your child will need and when they will be fully vaccinated can help you make the best decision for your family.

	DOSES	SCHEDULE	FULL VACCINATION	SIDE EFFECTS
Moderna mRNA Vaccine For the Moderna mRNA vaccine, children ages 6 months to 4 years: ²	Receive two 25 microgram doses	Must receive their second dose after four weeks	Are considered fully vaccinated a month from the initial dose	Pain, swelling, or redness at the injection site Tenderness and swelling of the lymph nodes in the same arm of the injection
Pfizer mRNA vaccine For the Pfizer mRNA vaccine, children ages 6 months to 4 years: ³	Receive three 3 microgram doses	Must receive their second dose 4 weeks after their first, and final dose eight weeks after the second	Are considered fully vaccinated three months after their initial dose	Headache or fatigue Muscle or joint pain Chills or fever Nausea or vomiting ¹

If your child has any adverse symptoms after receiving their vaccine...

Don't worry, these symptoms typically resolve within a few days. Call your provider if any side effects do not go away. In addition, you can report any side effects or concerns to CDC's safety monitoring system at vsafe.cdc.org.

References

1. Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: FDA authorizes Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines for children down to 6 months of age. *FDA*. Published June 17, 2022. Accessed June 22, 2022. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-moderna-and-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccines-children>
2. Moderna COVID-19 vaccine letter of authorization reissued June 17, 2022. *FDA*. Accessed June 22, 2022. <https://www.fda.gov/media/144636/download>
3. Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine EUA letter of authorization reissued June 17, 2022. *FDA*. Accessed June 22, 2022. <https://www.fda.gov/media/150386/download>