

For Ages 5 and Older: WHAT PARENTS AND GUARDIANS SHOULD KNOW

On November 3, 2021, Wisconsin expanded COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to include children ages 5 to 11. Anyone age 5 and older can now get protection against COVID-19 through vaccination.

Where can I learn more about the vaccine?

Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccine information:

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine.htm

What to expect when you get the vaccine:

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-prepare.htm

Benefits of getting vaccinated:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html



Which vaccine can my child get?

At this time, the Pfizer vaccine is the only vaccine available for anyone age 5 and older. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are only authorized for use in adults age 18 and older.

Children ages 5 to 11

A new Pfizer vaccine product was developed for children ages 5 to 11. The vaccine uses a different formula and is a lower dose compared to the Pfizer vaccine for adolescents and adults.

Why should my child get vaccinated?

- Some children can get very sick from COVID-19, and may need to be hospitalized. In rare cases, they may die. **By getting vaccinated, your child will be protected from getting sick and reduce the chances of spreading the virus to others.**
- People who survive a COVID-19 infection get stronger protection against future infection by getting vaccinated.
- Medical experts are learning about the long-term effects of COVID-19 in children such as multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C). MIS-C can cause parts of the body to become inflamed including the heart, lungs, brain, and other organs. **One of the best ways to protect your child from the long-term effects of COVID-19 is to get them vaccinated.**
- Fully vaccinated children and adults do not have to quarantine, but should take additional steps to protect themselves and others after exposure to COVID-19
- COVID-19 vaccines provide good protection against variants, including the Delta variant. The more people who get vaccinated, the less chance the virus has to mutate.

For Ages 5 and Older: WHAT PARENTS AND GUARDIANS SHOULD KNOW

Is the vaccine safe for my child?

The Pfizer vaccine has gone through the same safety tests and met the same standards as all other vaccines authorized in the U.S. Millions of children between ages 12 and 19 years old have already gotten the COVID-19 vaccine safely. Very few people have had any severe side effects. In fact, people are more likely to have serious long-term effects from getting sick from COVID-19. **If you have more questions, we recommend you connect with your child's primary care doctor.**

How does the vaccine work?

The Pfizer vaccine is an mRNA vaccine. The mRNA in the vaccine gives your cells instructions on how to make coronavirus spike proteins. Those proteins help your immune system produce specific antibodies that defend against COVID-19. So if the real virus enters your body, your immune system can fight it off to help prevent you from getting sick.

mRNA vaccines do not put a weakened or inactivated virus into your body. They cannot give someone COVID-19. Your cells break down and get rid of the mRNA as soon as it is finished using the instructions. The vaccine does not affect or interact with your DNA in any way. Vaccines give us protection against COVID-19 without ever having to risk getting hospitalized or dying from COVID-19.

Where can my child get vaccinated?

Check out [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services \(DHS\) website](https://www.wisconsin.gov/health), or call toll-free at 1-844-684-1064 to learn where your child can get vaccinated.

What else should I know about the COVID-19 vaccine?



- ✓ The vaccine is free for everyone.
You do not need an ID or health insurance to get it.



- ✓ Some people have temporary side effects after vaccination such as pain or swelling on the arm where they got the vaccine.
This is normal and means the body is building up protection against COVID-19.



- ✓ The Pfizer vaccine requires two doses separated by 21 days.
Make sure to mark your calendar for your second dose so your child can get fully vaccinated.

