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Vaccinators can now give Pfizer, Moderna vaccines to children as young as 6 months in Wisconsin

Eau Claire, WI, June 23, 2022 – COVID-19 vaccines are now available in Wisconsin for children 6 months to 5 years old. This means that everyone 6 months and older in Wisconsin is now eligible to get vaccinated against COVID-19 at no cost.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and CDC have authorized the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for children as young as 6 months old. Both the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) have recommended children in this new age group get vaccinated against COVID-19.

The Eau Claire City-County Health Department encourages parents to call their family doctor to schedule their child's vaccine appointment. If you do not have a family doctor, find local vaccine providers for this age group at [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), by texting your zip code to 438829, or calling 1-800-232-0233. Parents can also schedule an appointment for their child at the Health Department's COVID-19 vaccine clinic, held every Tuesday on the ground floor of the Eau Claire County Courthouse from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., at ecvaccine.as.me or by calling (715) 839-4718.

"Almost one-third of Eau Claire County children ages 5 to 11 have gotten vaccinated against COVID-19," says Lieske Giese, Health Department Director. "Now parents of infants and toddlers have the same opportunity to protect their youngest children from getting seriously sick from COVID-19."

Why should I get my child vaccinated against COVID-19?

- **It helps protect your child from negative health effects.** It's possible for children who get sick with COVID-19 to get very ill and sometimes need treatment in a hospital. Children and adolescents are usually at lower risk than adults of becoming severely ill or hospitalized from COVID-19, but it is still possible. Getting a vaccine decreases this risk further.
- **It decreases community spread.** When more people get vaccinated, the spread in our communities and the chances of new variants developing also go down.
- **It reduces your child's chances of having to quarantine.** Children younger than 5 who complete their primary vaccine series do not need to quarantine if they are a close contact to someone who tests positive for COVID-19. (Anyone age 5 or older should receive a booster dose before skipping their quarantine period, if they are a close contact.)

The Pfizer vaccine for the 6-month to 4-year-old age group is a three-dose series. The Moderna vaccine for the 6-month to 5-year-old age group is a two-dose series.

Before federal approval, pediatric COVID-19 vaccines underwent rigorous review and successful clinical trials of thousands of children. On June 17, 2022, the FDA authorized Pfizer's and Moderna's requests to expand their emergency use authorization to the youngest children. The CDC officially confirmed that the pediatric vaccines are safe and recommended them on June 18, 2022.

For more information on the vaccine and how COVID-19 impacts children, visit: [COVID-19: Resources for Parents and Guardians page \(WI DHS\)](#).

To see who is eligible for a COVID-19 booster vaccine, visit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-dose.htm>

Children and COVID-19 Vaccination			
Age Group	Series How many shots, and when?	Dosage Compared to adult dose	Booster Dose Are boosters recommended?
Pfizer			
6 months - 4 years	3-shot series: 2 doses, 3 weeks apart, followed by a 3rd at least 2 months later	One-tenth	Not at this time
5 - 11 years	2-shot series: 2 doses, 3 weeks apart	One-third	Yes, at least 5 months after second shot
12 - 17 years	2-shot series: 2 doses, 3 weeks apart	Equal	Yes, at least 5 months after second shot
Moderna			
6 months - 5 years	2-shot series: 2 doses, 4 weeks apart	One-quarter	Not at this time
6 - 11 years	2-shot series: 2 doses, 4 weeks apart	One-half	Not at this time
12 - 17 years	2-shot series: 2 doses, 4 weeks apart	Equal	Not at this time
Recommendations are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as of June 18, 2022			

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