

The State of Our Children: COVID-19 and Kids



July 15, 2022

COVID-19 Vaccine: Children 4 Years and Under Are Now Eligible for Protection

The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) expanded authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccine to kids 6 months through 4 years of age, allowing more than 17 million children across the United States to become eligible for protection from COVID-19. As we have been throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Valley Children's is in alignment with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendation that **everyone** 6 months and older should be vaccinated.

To reach the decision of vaccine authorization for our youngest children, the FDA conducted a careful and thorough review of data on the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines for children under age 5. Research continues to demonstrate that the vaccine is effective at protecting against COVID-19 by reducing urgent care visits and hospitalization. Vaccine doses for babies and toddlers are much smaller than those for older children and adults, and regimens showed similar antibody responses in kids as in the adult studies. Common side effects are temporary and can include fever, chills, tiredness, headache and pain or swelling in the arm you got the vaccine. Swollen lymph nodes near the site of the injection can also occur. Cough, congestion and runny nose are not side effects of the vaccine and may be symptoms of COVID-19 infection. A comprehensive list of commonly asked questions about COVID-19 and the vaccine is available at valleychildrens.org/COVID.

Vaccine schedule and dosing does vary based on age and brand. In order for children 6 months through 17 years to be up to date on their COVID-19 vaccine, the following schedule established by the CDC is advised:

		For Most Kids	Kids who ARE moderately or severely immunocompromised
Vaccine	Age	Series	Series
Pfizer-BioNTech	6 months - 4 years	3 total doses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 3-8 weeks between dose 1 and 2 At least 3-8 weeks between dose 2 and 3 	3 total doses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 3 weeks between dose 1 and 2 At least 8 weeks between dose 2 and 3
	5 years - 11 years	3 total doses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 3-8 weeks between dose 1 and 2 At least 5 months between dose 2 and 3 	4 total doses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 3 weeks between dose 1 and 2 At least 4 weeks between dose 2 and 3 At least 3 months between dose 3 and 4
	12 years - 17 years	3 total doses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 3-8 weeks between dose 1 and 2 At least 5 months between dose 2 and 3 	5 total doses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 3 weeks between dose 1 and 2 At least 4 weeks between dose 2 and 3 At least 3 months between dose 3 and 4 At least 4 months between dose 4 and 5
Moderna	6 months - 17 years	2 total doses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 4-8 weeks between dose 1 and 2 	3 total doses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 4 weeks between doses

For more information regarding vaccinations, schedules and more, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov), contact a child's primary care provider or learn more at your local county department of public health's website.

To schedule an appointment for the COVID-19 vaccine, check [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov) for availability near you, including clinics at Valley Children's Hospital.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID-19 vaccine: Interim COVID-19 vaccine immunization schedule for 6 months of age and older. (July 7, 2022). <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/COVID-19-immunization-schedule-ages-6months-older.pdf>

COVID-19 Positivity Rates Rise Once Again

Subvariants of Omicron are driving a surge across the country, including the Central Valley. While symptoms for those infected appear to be mild, the impact on emergency rooms, urgent cares and primary care offices remains significant. The number of new cases is expected to continue to rise as a result of large gatherings and other summertime activities.

Current COVID-19 data and trends across the Valley Children's Healthcare network (ages 0-20)

(as of July 3, 2022)

	Tests Administered	Positive Tests	Positivity Rate	Hospitalizations
July 4 - July 10	▼ 851	▼ 105 (91*)	▲ 12.3%	▼ 1
June 27 - July 3	1,019	120 (113*)	12.0%	3
June 20 - June 26	1,113	128 (102*)	11.5%	2
June 13 - June 19	1,142	130 (102*)	11.4%	1
June 6 - June 12	955	104 (77*)	11.0%	0
May 30 - June 5	1,243	77 (56*)	6.2%	0
May 23 - May 29	1,321	66 (38*)	5.0%	1
May 16 - May 22	1,288	64 (46*)	5.0%	1
May 9 - May 15	1,129	34 (20*)	3.0%	0
May 2 - May 9	1,054	24 (15*)	2.3%	2
Apr. 25 - May 1	998	19 (7*)	2.0%	1
Apr. 18 - Apr. 24	826	8 (5*)	1.0%	0
Apr. 11 - Apr. 17	708	6 (3*)	.08%	0

*COVID+ patients in Valley Children's Emergency Department

WEAR A MASK • WASH/SANITIZE HANDS • GET VACCINATED

For more information visit valleychildrens.org/covid19
or email contactus@valleychildrens.org