# 2025-26 COVID-19 Vaccine for Age 5 to 11 Years

vaccine protocol for children Age 5 through 11 Years

**Document reviewed and updated: September 23, 2025**

## Condition for protocol

To reduce incidence of morbidity and mortality of COVID-19 disease.

## Policy of protocol

The nurse will implement this protocol for COVID-19 vaccination using the 2025-26 Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine products for 5 through 11 years of age.

The indications in this protocol are based on recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

## Condition-specific criteria and prescribed actions

**Delete this entire paragraph before printing/signing protocol.**

[Instructions for persons adopting these protocols: The table below lists indication, contraindication, and precaution criteria and suggested prescribed actions that are necessary to implement the vaccine protocol. The prescribed actions include examples shown in brackets but may not suit your institution’s clinical situation and may not include all possible actions. A licensed prescriber must review the criteria and actions and determine the appropriate prescribing action.]

Indications

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria | Prescribed action |
| Child is under 5 years of age. | Do not vaccinate with this protocol.  *Refer to the protocol for the 2025-26 Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine for Age 6 months through 4 years old*. |
| Child is 12 years or older. | Do not vaccinate with this protocol. Refer to the protocol for  2025-26 COVID-19 Vaccines for Age 12 Years and Older. |
| Child is currently healthy and age 5 through 11 years. | Proceed to vaccinate if meets remaining criteria. |
| Child has a chronic medical condition\*. | Proceed to vaccinate. |
| Child is in one of the following risk groups:   * At high risk of severe COVID-19. * A resident of a long-term care facility or congregate setting. * Has a household contact at high risk for severe COVID-19. * Has never been vaccinated against COVID-19. | Proceed to vaccinate. |
| Child with HIV infection, other immunocompromising conditions, or who take immunosuppressive medications or therapies. | Proceed to vaccinate. Counsel the individual and/or parent/guardian about:  1) The potential for reduced immune responses.  2) The need to continue to follow [current guidance](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) to protect themselves. |
| Child who falls into one of the following categories of moderate to severe immunocompromise:   * Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies. * Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy. * Receipt of CAR-T-cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within two years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy). * Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome). * Advanced or untreated HIV infection. * Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., ≥20 mg prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, tumor-necrosis (TNF) blockers, and other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory. | Proceed to vaccinate using schedule for children with immunocompromising conditions.  [Refer to primary care provider if additional doses may be indicated] |
| Person whose parent or guardian requests protection from COVID-19 for their child. | Proceed to vaccinate. |

\*Visit [AAP: 2025-2026 COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations: FAQ](https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions/) and [CDC: Underlying Conditions and the Higher Risk for Severe COVID-19 (www.cdc.gov/covid/hcp/clinical-care/underlying-conditions.html)](https://www.cdc.gov/covid/hcp/clinical-care/underlying-conditions.html) for lists of high-risk underlying conditions or treatments. **Note these lists are not exhaustive**. Patients (or their parents or guardians) may self-attest to their underlying condition.

Contraindications

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria: Allergies | Prescribed action |
| Child had a severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to a previous dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine or any of its components. | Do not vaccinate. |

Precautions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria | Prescribed action |
| Child has a moderate to severe illness defined as temperature \_\_\_\_°F/°C or higher with symptoms such as: {to be determined by medical prescriber} | Defer vaccination and {to be determined by medical prescriber} |
| Child was diagnosed with non-severe allergy (e.g., urticaria beyond the injection site) to a component of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine; or non-severe, immediate (onset less than 4 hours) allergic reaction after administration of a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. | Refer to primary care provider. |
| History of severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to any other vaccine or injectable therapy (e.g., intramuscular, intravenous, or subcutaneous).  *This precaution does not include allergies not related to vaccines or injectable therapies e.g., food, pet, environmental, or latex allergies; oral medications (including the oral equivalents of injectable medications).* | Refer to primary care provider. |
| Child has a history of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C). | Refer to their primary care provider to receive an assessment of their current health condition and assessment of individual benefits and risks. |
| Child has a history of myocarditis or pericarditis within 3 weeks after a previous dose of any COVID-19 vaccine. | Refer to their primary care provider to receive an assessment of their current health condition and assessment of individual benefits and risks. |
| Child had a delayed local allergic reaction (e.g., erythema, induration, pruritis at the injection site). | Proceed to vaccinate. Give vaccine in the opposite arm from where the first dose was given. |

## Prescription

### Give any of the following products using the same vaccine product to complete the initial series and according to the schedule below:

* 2025-26 Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine for 5 through 11 years old (vials with blue caps and labels with blue borders); 10 mcg, **0.3 mL**, intramuscular (IM).
* 2025-26 Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine; 25 mcg, **0.25 mL**, intramuscular (IM)

Vaccination for 5 to 11-year-olds (risk-based and parental request)

* Unvaccinated: Give one dose of 2025-26 Moderna Spikevax or Pfizer Comirnaty vaccine.
* Previously vaccinated before 2025-26 vaccine: Give one dose 2025-2026 Moderna Spikevax or Pfizer vaccine at least 2 months following any previous COVID-19 vaccine dose.

Vaccination for persons age 5 to 11 years old with immunocompromising conditions

### Unvaccinated\*

* Give four doses (three-dose initial series Moderna Spikevax at 0, 4 weeks, and at least 4 weeks after dose two, followed by one dose Moderna Spikevax or Pfizer-BioNTech 6 months later [minimum interval 2 months]).\*\*

OR

* Give four doses (three-dose initial series Pfizer-BioNTech at 0, 3 weeks, and at least 4 weeks after dose two, followed by one dose Moderna Spikevax or Pfizer-BioNTech 6 months later [minimum interval 2 months]).\*\*

### Incomplete initial 3-dose vaccination series

Previous vaccination with Moderna:

* One dose Moderna Spikevax: Give two doses Moderna Spikevax at least 4 weeks apart (administer dose one Moderna Spikevax 4 weeks after most recent dose), followed by one dose Moderna Spikevax or Pfizer-BioNTech 6 months later (minimum interval 2 months).\*\*
* Two doses Moderna Spikevax: Give one dose Moderna Spikevax at least 4 weeks after most recent dose, followed by one dose Moderna Spikevax or Pfizer-BioNTech 6 months later (minimum interval 2 months).\*\*

Previous vaccination with Pfizer-BioNTech:

* One dose Pfizer-BioNTech: Give two doses Pfizer-BioNTech at least 4 weeks apart (administer dose one Pfizer-BioNTech 3 weeks after most recent dose), followed by one dose Moderna Spikevax or Pfizer-BioNTech 6 months later (minimum interval 2 months).\*\*
* Two doses Pfizer-BioNTech: Give one dose Pfizer-BioNTech at least 4 weeks after most recent dose, followed by one dose Moderna Spikevax or Pfizer-BioNTech 6 months later (minimum interval 2 months).\*\*

### Completed initial 3-dose vaccination series

* Three or more doses Moderna or three or more doses Pfizer BioNTech: Give two doses Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech 6 months apart (minimum interval 2 months). Administer dose one at least 8 weeks after the most recent dose.\*\*

\*Use vaccine from the same manufacturer for all doses in the initial vaccination series.

\*\*Additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine for moderately or severely immunocompromised may be given based on shared clinical decision making and administered at least 2 months after the most recent dose. Patient should talk to health care provider regarding additional doses.

## Medical emergency or anaphylaxis

Follow pre-established agency protocol for anaphylaxis.

## Question or concerns

**Insert overseeing medical consultant’s information below and delete this sentence before printing/signing.**

In the event of questions or concerns call (insert name) at (insert phone number).

**This protocol shall remain in effect until rescinded.**

Name of prescriber (please print):

Prescriber signature:

Date:

## Ingredient list

* 2025-26 Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for age 5 through 11 years (single dose vials with blue caps and labels with blue borders): [Package Insert and Patient Package Insert - COMIRNATY (www.fda.gov/media/151707/download?attachment)](https://www.fda.gov/media/151707/download?attachment)**.**
* 2025-26 Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine for age 5 through 11 years: [Package Insert - SPIKEVAX (www.fda.gov/media/155675/download?attachment)](https://www.fda.gov/media/155675/download?attachment).