

# COVID-19 Vaccines for Children

## Ages 5-11

This guide identifies the key messages you can use during your conversations with community residents, parents, young people, school staff, teachers, and other partners.

**Audience:** Parents, guardians, caretakers, families, schools, teachers, and other people who work with and take care of children ages 5-11.

**Question:** When can children 5-11 get vaccinated? Are COVID-19 vaccines safe for children ages 5-11? Where can they get vaccinated?

**Opening Statement:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have given Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for use in children ages 5-11. This vaccine is available across LA County.

**KEY MESSAGE 1:**

**The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is now available for children ages 5 to 11.**

The Pfizer vaccine is now approved by the FDA and the CDC for children ages 5-11.

The Pfizer vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine available for children ages 5-17.

Booster doses of the Pfizer vaccine are currently only available to people 12 and older.

**SUPPORTING MESSAGE 1.1:**

**Vaccines for children 5-11 are one third as strong as the vaccine dose for adults.**

**KEY MESSAGE 2:**

**Vaccinating eligible children is necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19.**

Although serious disease and death from COVID-19 is less common in children than adults, it is still possible. Unvaccinated people, including children, are most likely to get and spread COVID-19.

**SUPPORTING MESSAGE 2.1:**

**COVID-19 is less likely to spread in families when children are vaccinated.**

**KEY MESSAGE 3:**

**Vaccines for children ages 5-11 are available across LA County.**

There are many places where children ages 5-11 can get vaccinated against COVID-19, including your child's doctor's office, pharmacies, County, and mobile sites. Public Health is also working with school districts to hold vaccine clinics at schools.

**SUPPORTING MESSAGE 3.1:**

**Make sure the site you're going to has the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5-11.**

Children ages 5-11 get a smaller dose of the vaccine. That's because young children have very strong immune systems, meaning they can get a smaller dose of vaccine than teens or adults and still build the same amount of protection.

The Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5-11 is given in a two-dose series. Each dose is 3 weeks apart. The vaccine is given into a child's arm, just like in adults.

**SUPPORTING MESSAGE 1.2:**

**Vaccines are safe and effective for children 5-11.**

The process the FDA uses to approve vaccines for children is known as the gold standard across the world. There is a very intense review of data from clinical trials before vaccines can be given to children. Once approved, vaccines continue to be monitored as they are administered across the country.

Data shows us that the Pfizer vaccine is 91% effective at preventing COVID-19 in children ages 5-11.

**SUPPORTING MESSAGE 1.3:**

**Children 5-11 can experience some of the same short-term side**

The vaccine makes it less likely to get COVID-19 and to give COVID-19 to others.

Vaccines prevent parents, grandparents, and household members with underlying medical conditions from getting COVID-19 from a child. This makes holiday and family gatherings safer.

**SUPPORTING MESSAGE 2.2:**

**Getting children vaccinated helps keep schools safe and open.**

When more children are vaccinated, COVID-19 is less likely to spread at school.

When COVID-19 spreads in schools, students and staff must quarantine and isolate to prevent outbreaks. A child being sent home can cause major disruptions in school or in parents' work schedules. This means students lose out on learning and schools and parents miss out on much needed funds.

**SUPPORTING MESSAGE 2.3:**

**Talk to your child about why vaccines are important.**

Check [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinatelacounty.com) to find a site near you that offers the vaccine to 5-11 year olds.

You can call 833-540-0473 from 8:00am to 8:30pm 7 days a week to get help with appointments.

You can also speak with your child's doctor to find a place to get the pediatric vaccine dose.

**SUPPORTING MESSAGE 3.2:**

**Minors need consent from a parent or guardian to get a vaccine at sites run by Public Health.**

A consent form is required for minors age 5-17 to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Consent forms can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/DPHCOVIDvaxSites>.

5-15-year-olds must be with their parent, legal guardian, or other responsible adult.

If a child is being vaccinated at school or other site, parents/guardians should follow the requirements for that location.

**SUPPORTING MESSAGE 3.3:**

**Create a plan to make sure your child is comfortable getting a vaccine.**

**effects from the vaccine as teens or adults.**

Children may have a sore arm, a fever, tiredness, and body aches. This is a sign that their body is learning to fight off the virus. These side effects will go away within a few days.

No cases of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) occurred in children ages 5-11 who received the vaccine in clinical trials.

Once children are fully vaccinated, it will be safer for them to hang out with friends or play sports. They also do not need to quarantine if they travel out of state or if a friend, family member, teacher, or teammate gets COVID-19. Like you've taught them with masking, getting the COVID-19 vaccine will help them do their part to help everyone they love.

- Tell your child what to expect at their vaccine appointment—where they are going, who they will see, and what will happen afterward.
- Let your child bring their favorite toy or other comforting object.
- Play games or activities while waiting in line.

**Closing Statement:** Vaccinating children will help limit the spread of COVID-19 and lower the risk to families and schools. Please visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinatelacounty.com) to find a site near you to get your 5-11 year old children vaccinated.