

COVID-19 Vaccines: What Families Should Consider (As of 6/24/2021)

Jackson Street Pediatrics we will be offering the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in the near-future for our patients and the adults that care for them (yes, the adults!) that desire to be vaccinated against COVID-19. It does NOT fall under the guidelines of our vaccination policy.

Currently, people ages 12 and older (only Pfizer is currently authorized for ages 12 and up) can access the vaccine through area pharmacies and community organizations. In considering if vaccination is right for you and your family, I wanted to present to you some information that may help you in your decision-making process.

The US has a population of around 330 million people in total. To date...

- 180 million people have received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine (53% total population)
- 150 million people have been fully vaccinated (45% total population)

Of those 18 and up...

- 66% have received one dose
- 56% have completed a vaccination series

Louisiana has a population of around 4.67 million people. To date...

- 1.7 million have received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine (37.5% total population)
- 1.5 million people have been fully vaccinated (33.8% total population)

Of those 18 and up in Louisiana...

- 48% have received one dose (40% age 18-64, 78% over age 65)
- 43% have completed the vaccination series

But what about kids? Pfizer was approved for 16 and older in December and it approved for ages 12 and older in May. This is the information we have on the numbers for this age group to date.

Among children ages 12–17 in the US and Louisiana...

- 32% have received at least one dose nationwide
- 12% have received at least one dose in Louisiana

Kids are a low risk, but not no-risk from COVID-19 and its complications. Also, it is unclear how new variants may behave. There are some children with health conditions for which COVID can be much more serious. These include, but are not limited to:

- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Asthma and other respiratory conditions
- Sickle cell disease
- Immunosuppression for any reason

Also, many children live in households with other at-risk family members where bringing COVID into the home may present potential harm.

These vaccines are new and under EUA, not typical authorization. It is understandable for people to be cautious, particularly around their children's health. Dr. Wicker-Brown is happy to discuss any concerns families may have in making the decision for themselves as caregivers and for those they care for.

If interested in receiving the vaccine, please call us at 318-767-6503 to be placed on our list to be scheduled when we have the vaccine in stock.

For more information about COVID and COVID vaccines, the following sites have great information:

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/The-Science-Behind-the-COVID-19-Vaccine-Parent-FAQs.aspx>

<https://zdoggmd.com/pfizer-kids/> (Youtube video with a more skeptical view)

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/covid-19-vaccines-for-kids/art-20513332>

<https://zdoggmd.com/vaccine-sterilization/> (Youtube video regarding concerns about fertility)