

COVID-19 Vaccines: What Families Should Consider (As of 06/24/2022)

As of June 18, 2022, the CDC approved both the Moderna vaccine for ages 6 months and up (previously only available for ages 18 and up) and added the 6 months to 5-year age group for the Pfizer vaccine. Jackson Street Pediatrics has offered the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for our patients and the adults that care for them (yes, the adults!) that desire to be vaccinated against COVID-19 since the pediatric vaccine became widely available.

In July, we will make the Moderna vaccine available for children younger than 5. The Moderna vaccine is a 2-dose series given at least 28 days apart.

- Moderna dose for 12 and older: 100 mcg/dose
- Moderna dose for ages 6-11: 50 mcg/dose
- Moderna for younger than 5: 25 mcg/dose

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...

- 257 million people have received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine (78% total population)
- 222 million people have been fully vaccinated (67.4% total population)
- 102 million people have received a booster (31%)

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

- 2.8 million have received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine (61% total population)
- 2.4 million people have been fully vaccinated (54% total population)
- 988,000 have been boosted (21%)

Pfizer was approved for 16 and older in December 2020, for ages 12 and older in May 2021 and ages 6 months and older in June 2022. Moderna was approved for ages 18 and older in December 2020 and ages 6 months and older in June 2022.

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

- 59% of 12- to 17-year-olds are fully vaccinated in the US
- 39% are fully vaccinated in Louisiana

In November 2021, Pfizer was authorized for children ages 5-11 at 1/3 the dose approved for ages 12 and up (10mcg vs 30mcg).

Among children ages 5-11 in the US and Louisiana...

- 28% of 5- to 11-year-olds are fully vaccinated in the US
- 12% are fully vaccinated 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.

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 or if you have questions, please check out our resources page or give us a call at 318-767-6503.

For more information about 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://www.healthychildren.org/English/tips-tools/ask-the-pediatrician/Pages/what-should-parents-know-about-the-covid-vaccine-for-kids-under-5.aspx>

<https://www.yalemedicine.org/news/covid-19-vaccines-kids-under-5>

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