

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kristin Prelipp, Communications Manager and Public Information Officer
kprelipp@orangecountync.gov or 919-245-2462

[LINK TO MEDIA RELEASE](#)

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Now Available for Children Ages 5 to 11

HILLSBOROUGH, N.C. Nov. 3, 2021 — Children ages 5 to 11 can now receive a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine. The Food and Drug Administration has authorized a lower dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children in this age group, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend all children 5–11 get the vaccine to protect against serious illness and help keep them healthy.

"Children are vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus just like everyone else," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. "The authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine provides a safe, tested way to protect them from serious illness and provide healthier, happier experiences in and outside of the classroom."

During the most recent surge, pediatric cases of COVID-19 rose by about 240% in the United States, demonstrating a need to protect children from the disease. Results from clinical trials that began in March 2021 showed the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine was safe and effective to protect children ages 5–11 from COVID-19.

There were no safety concerns or serious side effects noted in the clinical trials. Temporary side effects for kids 5–11 are similar to older kids and adults and may include a sore arm, headache and being tired or achy for a day or so.

More than 3,000 children ages 5–11 participated in the trials with volunteers from different races and ethnicities (77% white, 6% African American/Black, 8% Asian, 17% Hispanic/Latinx and 7% multiracial). This is comparable to the number included in many similar clinical trials with children.

Children are given two doses of the Pfizer vaccine. Each dose is one-third the amount given to people ages 12 and older. The dose for 5–11 year olds is different from the dose authorized for people ages 12 and older, and children in this age group should not receive the 12 and older dose.

The vaccine is effective and produced a similar immune response in children 5–11 as in older kids and adults ages 16–25. As with other routine vaccinations for children, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine underwent a thorough testing and review process by the FDA and an independent scientific committee to ensure it is safe and effective for children.

The Pfizer-BioNTech lower dose COVID-19 vaccine is currently the only one available for children between the ages of 5–11. Parents and guardians with questions about COVID-19 vaccines should talk with their child's physician.

"Getting school-age kids vaccinated will help keep them safe to play sports, attend events, be with friends and do all of the other things kids love to do that they may currently be missing out on," Secretary Cohen said. "I will be getting my daughters vaccinated this weekend. Don't wait to vaccinate your kids, so they get back to safely being with family and friends, especially as we head into the holiday season."

Everyone ages 5 and older can receive a free Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, even if they don't have health insurance and regardless of their immigration status.

North Carolina's actions are based on recommendations from the CDC. Read the CDC's full statement [here](#).

For more information about how vaccines for children work and where you can find a vaccination appointment nearby, visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://myspot.nc.gov). The North Carolina Vaccine Help Center at 888-675-4567 can also help you make an appointment. It is open 7 a.m.–7 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m.–4 p.m. on weekends.


In Orange County there are multiple places that your 5–11-year-old can be vaccinated, including pediatric clinics, K-12 Schools, and local pharmacies and "pop-up events." These opportunities are described below:

1. If you have a medical home for your child, call your pediatric clinic to find out if they are taking vaccine appointments.
2. If you prefer evening hours, StarMed is offering vaccination clinics at Orange County Schools.
 - Visit <https://unityphr.com/campaigns/starmed/vaccine>
 - Select "Pediatric Pfizer"
 - Select "first dose"
 - Select "Orange County"
 - Select your preferred school location
 - Select "view slots" to see the dates and times that are available.
3. The Health Department will be offering pop-up vaccine clinics specifically for five- to 11-year-olds by appointment only on Thursday, November 4 and Friday, November 5 from 4-8pm. Please call 919-913-8088 or visit takemyshot.nc.gov to schedule.
4. Hillsborough Pharmacy is offering vaccination appointments on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays by appointment only. Please call 919-245-1212 or visit www.indycarehealth.com.
5. Village Pediatrics is offering vaccination appointments Monday through Friday, 7:30am – 5:00pm, and Saturdays from 8:00am – Noon. Please call 919-969-9611 or visit www.villagepediatrics.com.

6. As vaccine clinics become available, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services will post them here: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines/kids/locations>

Please bear in mind that appointments are limited at this time. More appointments will become available in the coming days and weeks.

Link to graphic: [English](#), [Spanish](#)





EVERYONE 5 or older
is now eligible for the
COVID-19 vaccine

The Pfizer vaccine is approved for ages 5 and up and Moderna and J & J are approved for ages 18 and up. Getting vaccinated is free and convenient.

Check out www.orangecountync.gov/getyourshot to see the schedule of walk-in and pop-up clinics.

Or visit www.myspot.nc.gov to choose a time and date that works for your schedule!

You may also call 919-913-8088 to schedule. Spanish and other languages are available.



Ahora ya son elegibles para
ponerse la vacuna COVID-19
todas las personas de
5 años en adelante.

La vacuna Pfizer está aprobada para las edades de 5 años en adelante, y la vacuna Moderna y J&J está aprobada para las edades de 18 años en adelante.

Vacunarse es gratis y conveniente.

Echa un vistazo www.orangecountync.gov/getyourshot para ver el horario de los sitios que no piden cita previa y el de las clínicas emergentes.

¡O visita www.myspot.nc.gov para escoger una hora y un día que se adapte a tu horario!

También puedes llamar a 919-913-8088 para programar una cita. Se habla español y otros idiomas.



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