Pfizer COVID Vaccine Now Available for Children ages 5-11 + Layer Your Protection and Get Your Flu Shot

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

Children ages 5 to 11 [can now receive](#) a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine. 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.

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 to 11 get the vaccine to protect against serious illness and help keep them healthy.

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 to 11 from COVID-19.

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 to 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.

To find a vaccination appointment nearby, visit [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. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends.

[COVID-19 Vaccines are Safe and Effective for Everyone 5 and Older](#)

Richard J. Chung, MD
Pediatrician, Duke Health

Safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines are available now for everyone five and older. Pediatricians and nurses across North Carolina trust the vaccine and the data behind it. To find a vaccination appointment for your child, visit MySpot.nc.gov.

Layer Your Protection and Get Your Flu Shot
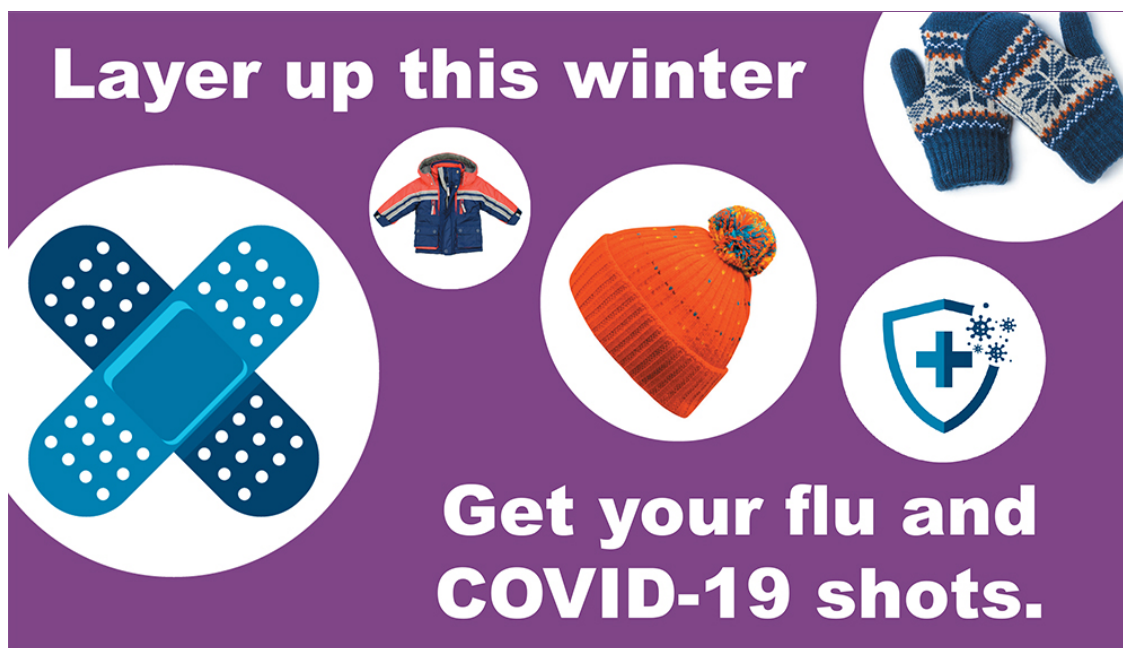
Layer up this winter and protect yourself, your family and those around you by getting your flu shot. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends flu vaccination for everyone 6 months and older with any licensed, age-appropriate flu vaccine.

Flu vaccinations are available at hospitals, pharmacies, private medical offices, some federally qualified health care centers and local health departments., and are available at little to no cost. COVID-19 vaccines can be administered at the same time as other vaccines, including the flu vaccine.

Learn more about the similarities and differences between the flu and COVID-19 from the CDC, and visit covid19.ncdhhs.gov/flu for more information about the flu and where to get your flu and COVID-19 vaccines.

Monoclonal Antibodies for Treatment of COVID-19

Experiencing COVID-19 symptoms?
Exposed to COVID-19?

While vaccines offer the best protection from COVID-19, monoclonal antibodies may help.

LEARN MORE + FIND TREATMENT:

1-877-332-6585 (English)   1-877-366-0310 (Spanish)

While vaccines provide the best protection from COVID-19, treatment options such as monoclonal antibodies are available if you have had symptoms of COVID-19 for 10 days or less or have been exposed to COVID-19. If taken early, they can reduce the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death.

Monoclonal antibodies are made in a laboratory to fight a particular infection and are given to patients directly with an infusion or a shot. Your body naturally makes antibodies to fight infection. However, your body may not have antibodies designed to recognize a new virus like the virus that causes COVID-19. That's why monoclonal antibody treatment may help patients who are at high risk for severe symptoms or hospitalization.

For more information about the monoclonal antibodies and to find a location that offers treatment, go to covid19.ncdhhs.gov/treatment.

COVID-19 Testing

Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has been exposed to the virus should get tested as soon as possible. To find a testing site near you, visit ncdhhs.gov/GetTested.

People who are not experiencing serious symptoms should not go to the emergency department for routine COVID-19 testing. People should seek medical attention immediately for serious symptoms such as trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, or bluish lips or face.

For an up-to-date list of no-cost community testing events, visit the No-Cost Testing Events webpage. Additionally, all North Carolinians can request a free at-home COVID-19 testing kit. Learn more.

Get the Latest Information

- Visit the NCDHHS COVID-19 website for information, a data dashboard, updates, live briefings, the latest guidance and more.
- Go to North Carolina's COVID-19 Information Hub for resources, information and assistance across state government, including the latest news releases.
- Check out YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov to learn more about finding your spot to get your shot, videos about the COVID-19 vaccine, and other resources.
- Follow NCDHHS on social media.