

COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

May 13, 2021

What We Heard This Week:

When can our 12-15 year olds get vaccinated now that it's been approved by the FDA?

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has amended Pfizer-BioNTech's Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to expand use of its vaccine to include youth ages 12-15
- An advisory committee to the CDC will meet Wednesday to review clinical trial data and make recommendations to the CDC for the vaccine's use.
- However, everyone 12 and older can start getting vaccinated immediately at four new vaccination clinics (make sure Pfizer if 12-17 years old).

Where can our 12-15 year olds get their vaccinations?

- Pediatricians
- Pharmacies
- Nemours & ChristianaCare hospital systems
- DPH public health clinics and new vaccination clinics
- Curative sites

*Written parental consent is required to vaccinate individuals younger than 18 years old, however the parent is not required to be on site with the child during the vaccination. ID for the minor child is not required.

Is it safe for my child to get the vaccine?

- COVID-19 is a vaccine-preventable disease, just like measles, mumps and other childhood diseases. The vaccine is their best protection against it.
- According to Pfizer, clinical trials involving 2,260 12-to-16-year-olds showed its efficacy is 100%.
- No cases of coronavirus were found among children aged 12 to 15 who received the vaccine, while 16 cases were identified in the placebo group.
- The children produced strong antibody responses; much higher levels compared to trial participants 16 – 25 years old according to trial data from Pfizer.

What are the side effects in younger children?

- Young people in the trial experienced no serious side effects. The most common side effects were like those found in adults: fever, fatigue, redness at the injection site, headaches, chills, and muscle and joint pain.
- Symptoms typically went away after 1-3 days and were more common after the second dose.
- We hear parents' concerns about the potential impact of the vaccine on their child's fertility. There is no reported loss of fertility among the millions of people who have already received a vaccine, and pregnancy has occurred among those who have received vaccines, both during and after clinical trials. Also, according to the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, there

is no scientific evidence of loss of fertility from any of the three vaccines authorized for Emergency use, calling it “unlikely.”

Why should I get my child vaccinated. COVID occurs mostly in older people.

- Children are not immune from COVID-19. 1.5 million cases, and more than 13,000 hospitalizations from the disease nationwide have been reported to the CDC among children ages 11-17. The vaccine is their best protection.
- It’s particularly important to vaccinate children in this age group with underlying health conditions, or those who live with those who do. These individuals, including vulnerable seniors, are all at higher risk for severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19.
- While youth are less likely to be hospitalized, 61% of those who were had at least one underlying health condition.
- As more people get vaccinated, adolescents represent an increasing proportion of recent COVID-19 cases.

Why is Pfizer the only vaccine available to 12-17 year olds?

- Pfizer is the only manufacturer who has completed their Phase 3 clinical trials and submitted their data to the FDA for EUA approval of this age group
- Other manufacturers are still undergoing clinical trials

Where should we go for more information?

For more information, visit de.gov/youthvaccine

Which public health clinics have free COVID-19 vaccines? Do I have to register for an appointment?

- No appointments are necessary for a COVID-19 vaccine. If appointment is desired, call 1-833-643-1715.
- COVID-19 vaccines are available at the following DPH public health clinics:
 - Wilmington: Canby Park, 1946 Maryland Ave. (Located in the Elizabeth Shopping Mall, near the rear of the center, to the right of Fashion Nails)
 - Newark: Oxford Building at University Plaza, 256 Chapman Road, Suite 100
 - Dover, Blue Hen Corp. Center, 655 S. Bay Road, Suite 1A
 - Georgetown: Georgetown Plaza, 19 Georgetown Plaza

Where can those with disabilities get the vaccine?

- Persons with disabilities or access and functional needs, can get a vaccine anywhere they are available. Specifically, public health clinics (including new sites) and Curative are accessible to those who need accommodations.
- For an appointment at a DPH health clinic, call 1-833-643-1715 or email vaccine@delaware.gov if you have questions about accommodations.
- For an appointment at Curative, call 1-888-702-9042 or email support@curative.com if you have questions about accommodations.

- Contact pharmacies, hospital systems, health care providers or organizers of community-based events directly if you have questions about accessibility and available accommodations at their sites.

What restrictions exactly are being lifted on May 21st?

- Effective on May 21st:
 - Indoor capacity restrictions will be lifted
 - Masks are still required indoors
 - If you are outdoors, please follow CDC guidance
 - Social distancing requirements will move from 6 feet to 3 feet
 - Social distancing still matters and crowds are risky
 - Wear masks in crowded situations
 - Being seated in bars and restaurants remains a requirement
 - Gatherings with more than 250 people still requires a plan approved by DPH