

## Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines – CDC recommends primary series in 6 months to 4 or 5 years of age

- On June 17 and 18, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) recommended a primary series of 2 doses of [Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#) for individuals **6 months to 5 years of age** and a primary series of 3 doses of [Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine](#) for individuals **6 months to 4 years of age**, under the emergency use authorization (EUA) issued by the FDA.
  - The ACIP vote for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine was unanimous in favor of the recommendation for a 2-dose (25 mcg) vaccine series for children 6 months to 5 years of age, under the EUA issued by the FDA.
  - The ACIP vote for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was unanimous in favor of the recommendation for a 3-dose (3 mcg) vaccine series for children 6 months to 4 years of age, under the EUA issued by the FDA.
  - This recommendation follows closely after the [FDA announced](#) an expanded EUA of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 to include use in children down to 6 months of age on June 17, 2022.
  - ACIP did not discuss or recommend use of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in individuals 6 years to 17 years of age. A separate meeting will be held to discuss use in this age group. The Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is already recommended in children down to 5 years of age.
- The COVID-19 pandemic affects young children. There have been 202 deaths in children 6 months to 4 years of age from January 2020 through May 2022.
- There was discussion around vaccine hesitancy in this age group due to potential safety concerns. The CDC workgroup reviewed the available data and determined:
  - There were no deaths, myocarditis cases or anaphylaxis in trials conducted for both vaccines.
  - Most common adverse reactions were pain at injection site, fatigue, irritability and sleepiness.
  - Most adverse reactions were mild and resolved after 1 to 3 days.
  - Fevers lasted about 1 day.
- After review of the available data for both efficacy and safety, the ACIP concluded the Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines provide more benefits than risks in individuals 6 months to 4 or 5 years of age.
- On June 18, 2022, the [CDC Director endorsed](#) the ACIP's recommendation that all children 6 months through 5 years of age should receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Additional information on COVID-19 vaccines for children can be found on the CDC website [here](#). And an at-a-glance summary of COVID-19 vaccine schedules is available [here](#).
- The CDC clinical considerations for vaccine administration can be found on the CDC website [here](#).

### What's next:

- The FDA authorized the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for children 6 to 17 years of age. The ACIP will be meeting on [Thursday, June 23, 2022](#) to review this age group and make recommendations for use.



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