NCH BAKER HOSPITAL DOWNTOWN

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KIDS AND THE COVID VACCINE FAQS

1) **What age can children under 18 get the vaccine and which ones are available to children?**
   The CDC recommends everyone ages 5 and older get a COVID-19 vaccine to help protect against COVID-19.

Authorized For	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	J&J / Janssen
4 years and under	No	No	No
5–11 years old	Yes	No	No
12–17 years old	Yes	No	No
18 years and older	Yes	Yes	Yes

2) **Why is vaccination important for my child?**
   Although children are at a lower risk of becoming severely ill with COVID-19 compared with adults, children can:
   - Be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19
   - Get very sick from COVID-19
   - Have both short and long-term health complications from COVID-19
   - Spread COVID-19 to others

   Children with underlying medical conditions are more at risk for severe illness from COVID-19 compared with children without underlying medical conditions. Children who get infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 can also develop serious complications like multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) - a condition where different body parts become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs.

3) **In what other ways might the vaccine for my child be beneficial?**
   Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can help protect children ages 5 years and older from getting COVID-19.
   - Vaccinating children can help protect family members, including siblings who are not eligible for vaccination and family members who may be at increased risk of getting very sick if they are infected.
   - Vaccination can also help keep children from getting seriously sick even if they do get COVID-19.
   - Vaccinating children ages 5 years and older can help keep them in school and help them safely participate in sports, playdates, and other group activities.

   Help protect your whole family and slow the spread of COVID-19 in your community by getting yourself and your children ages 5 years and older vaccinated against COVID-19.

4) **Is the COVID vaccine safe for my child?**
   Yes! COVID-19 vaccines are being monitored for safety with the most comprehensive and intense safety monitoring program in U.S. history. CDC monitors the safety of all COVID-19 vaccines after the vaccines are authorized or approved for use, including the risk of myocarditis in children ages 5 through 11. Serious health events after COVID-19 vaccination are rare.

5) **Is it safe for my child to get other vaccines in addition to the COVID vaccine?**
   Yes! Your child may get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines, including flu vaccine, at the same time.

6) **Does dosage rate for the COVID vaccine differ from what is given to those 12 and older?**
   Adolescents ages 12 years and older receive the same dosage of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine as adults.

   Children ages 5 through 11 receive one-third of the adult dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. Smaller needles, designed specifically for children, are used for children ages 5 through 11.

7) **Does the dosage vary depending on my child's weight?**
   No, the COVID-19 vaccine dosage does not vary by patient weight but by age on the day of vaccination.

8) **How should I prepare my child to receive the vaccine?**

   Talk to your child before vaccination about what to expect. It is **not recommended** you give pain relievers before vaccination to try to prevent side effects. Tell the doctor or nurse about any allergies your child may have.

9) **Are there any side effects to getting the COVID vaccine for my child?**
   Your child may have some side effects, which are normal signs that their body is building protection.

On the arm where your child got the shot:	Throughout the rest of their body:
• Pain • Redness • Swelling	• Tiredness • Headache • Muscle pain • Chills • Fever • Nausea

   These side effects may affect your child's ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Some people have no side effects and severe allergic reactions are rare. If your child experiences a severe allergic reaction after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, vaccine providers can rapidly provide care and call for emergency medical services, if needed. Ask your child's healthcare provider for advice on using a non-aspirin pain reliever and other steps you can take at home after your child gets vaccinated.

10) **Where can I find a COVID vaccine for my child aged 5-11 years?**
    Those looking specifically for the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5 through 11 should visit the Florida Department of Health website for vaccine location sites. (floridahealthcovid19.gov/vaccines/vaccine-locator/)