

Dear TK

We know that parents have a lot of questions about when children under 12 years old will be able to get the COVID-19 vaccine, and we wanted to provide an update on this process.

The vaccines have been and will continue to be carefully studied in children under 12, just like they were for people 12 and older. This process is called a clinical trial and all authorized vaccines have gone through it. Only vaccines shown to be safe and effective in this age group will be authorized.

Pfizer has now submitted their results for a vaccine for children ages 5 to 11 to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for review. If approved by the FDA and CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, authorization for this vaccine is expected to come in October or November. Once authorized, distribution of this vaccine for 5–11-year-olds to the states will begin.

When the vaccine is authorized, Minnesota is ready to vaccinate this younger age group and we have many different ways to get the shot. All you need to do is get your child vaccinated when they are eligible. Being vaccinated is the best way to protect your child and the people around them.

If you have questions about vaccines, **[your pediatrician or family physician can be an excellent source of information—providers should modify as they see fit].** You can also get more information from the [Minnesota Department of Health](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

Why Should I get My Child Vaccinated?

Getting your child vaccinated helps them stay safe during school, sports and other social activities that are vital for a child to experience in person. Their vaccination also helps protect vulnerable family members, friends and neighbors.

The CDC has also reported that **unvaccinated people are more than 10 times more likely to be hospitalized** than those that have been fully vaccinated. We cannot predict who will get very sick from COVID-19, so taking steps to prevent people from getting sick, such as vaccination, are very important.

If you are interested in getting the vaccine or currently have a child over the age of 12, the time to get them vaccinated is now. You can find a vaccine through Minnesota's [Find Vaccine website](#) or Vaccines.gov.

How Can I Protect My Child While We Wait for the Vaccine?

Until children age 11 and under can get vaccinated, getting tested along with masking, social distancing, avoiding crowded settings, handwashing and staying home when sick remain the key ways to keep your child and family safe and healthy.

Unvaccinated children in school should test a minimum of once a week, or more frequently in areas with high infection rates according to CDC guidance. Go to [Find Testing Locations \(https://mn.gov/covid19/get-tested/testing-locations/index.jsp\)](https://mn.gov/covid19/get-tested/testing-locations/index.jsp) to search for options near you.

[Your child's school might also be offering testing to students so make sure to give the school administration a call.—schools who are offering an onsite testing program should modify as they see fit.]

One more thing: the best way to protect children who cannot get vaccinated yet is by getting everyone around them vaccinated, which will help slow the spread of the virus in their community. Please get your family members 12 years of age and older vaccinated and encourage others to get protected against the virus and slow the spread by getting their shot.

Please reach out with any further questions, we are here to help!

[Name]

[Title]