



FAQs Covid Vaccination - <5 year olds

June 20, 2022

Thank you to all of our parents of <5 year olds who have responded to our survey about Covid vaccination. We are pleased to say that over 2/3 of you want your children vaccinated against Covid, one of the top 5-10 causes of death for children in this age group.

Here are the FAQs that we are hearing from you:

Why should my child get the Covid Vaccine?

1. Public Health: the more people who are vaccinated, the less circulating virus is in our communities. That means less people contract Covid and less people have severe disease, hospitalizations, deaths and long-term issues.

2. Practical Considerations: Covid exposure and infection requires times off of school and work. It causes a financial and physical strain on families and our community, as well as children's consistency in an academic environment. Vaccinated individuals have shorter (if any) quarantine and are less likely to contract the illness and less likely to get severe symptoms that extend time away from work and school.

3. Individual Health Considerations: There have been 475 deaths in this age group from Covid - more than seen with influenza. Covid is not a benign disease in this age group. With a safe and effective vaccine, it is difficult to argue against using it to prevent this cause of death for this age group.

Which shot should my child receive? This is a great question and one that doesn't have a perfect answer. The good news is that they are BOTH great options! They both have a safety and efficacy profile that makes it hard for us to definitively recommend one over the other.

Considerations:

Pfizer is a 3 shot schedule. Jabs 1 and 2 are separated by 3 weeks, then shot 3 is given 8 weeks after shot 2. There is not a great protective response until that third shot but then, the numbers seem to be around 80% for efficacy.

Pfizer has been given to hundreds of thousands of children with a great safety record. It has less side effects and lower fevers than Moderna.

Moderna is a 2 shot schedule. Jabs 1 and 2 are separated by 4 weeks. The efficacy after shot 2 is 40-50%. There is expected to be a booster later this season.

Moderna has a slightly higher side effect profile than Pfizer with about 10% of kids getting fever, fatigue, sleepiness, soreness as the most common side effects - still a VERY safe vaccine.

So you can see that there are considerations to weigh. If you wish your child to have immunity that is QUICKER due to imminent school or ongoing risk, consider Moderna. If you are less worried about the timing, but your child tends to be a fever producer, consider Pfizer.

We have no real preference for your children and are encouraged to have two great options. Feel free to schedule a consult with your doctor if you want to discuss this further, but as noted, after reviewing the data, we don't have a strong recommendation of one over the other.

Which will TVP be using? We will have both vaccines available so parents can get either one at our office.

When will the shots be available? We anticipate having the shots by the end of this week with our first shot clinics being either this weekend or next week. We will send out a message to our parents of <5 year olds when we have the vaccines in hand.

When do we let TVP know which shot we want for our child/children? When you schedule your appointment, we will be asking which shot you want your child to have. If you do not know, please ask for a consultation with your pediatrician. This can be done with a telemedicine appointment.

What should I bring to my appointment? You should bring your filled out consent form (see our website) and a mask for you and your children >2.

Is there a waiting period after the shot? Yes. Just like the >5 yr shots, there is a 15-30 minute waiting time (depending on your child's medical history) after receiving the shot. This will take place inside our office.

Can my child get their shot with the other routine childhood shots? Not yet. Though we anticipate that this is safe, there are no recommendations or information on this combination yet, so we will time your child's Covid shot when they do not need other childhood immunizations.

Where can I get more detailed information about these shots? See our website! We have a section on Covid vaccinations for this age group that gives the data and recommendations along with the EUA (Emergency Use Authorization) for each type of shot. And again, if you want to schedule a consult with your pediatrician to discuss this further, we are happy to do so. There is a copay for this type of consultation, but it can be done via Telemedicine.

As always, thank you for being thoughtful about your children's vaccinations. It takes all of us to ensure the best public health. We at TVP strive to keep our youngest and immune compromised patients safe and we thank you for your contributions to this effort! Please keep wearing your masks in indoor spaces and on public transportation. Please test and quarantine if you have Covid. Please get your boosters when you are due. We appreciate you and your thoughtfulness in this regard!

Sincerely,

The Doctors and Staff of Tanque Verde Pediatrics