Q: Can children receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine?
A: Yes. The FDA and CDC authorized an EUA for the use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in children ages 5 to 11.

Q: Will children get a smaller dose?
A: Yes. Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine manufactured for children will be given in two 10-microgram (mcg) doses administered 21 days apart. The dosage is one-third of the adolescent and adult dose.

Q: How effective is the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children 5 to 11 years old?
A: Pfizer reported data showing that its vaccine had a 90.7 percent efficacy rate in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 in a clinical trial of children ages 5 to 11. Children have very active immune systems, so a smaller dosage is still able to induce a protective immune response.

Q: Why do children ages 5-11 need a COVID-19 vaccine?
A: Just like with adults, the COVID-19 vaccine can prevent children from getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. According to pediatric COVID-19 experts, children in the 5-11-year-old age group made up to 30% of all new infections as they have not had a vaccine available. During the pandemic, 8,622 children have been hospitalized and more than 700 have died. Though children in general don’t get as ill or die as often from COVID-19, they spread the virus. Experts agree that getting children vaccinated is a key in ending the pandemic once and for all.

Q: Do children still need to get vaccinated if they have already had COVID-19?
A: Yes. It is recommended that children who had COVID-19 still be vaccinated as soon as the shot is made available. There are still too many questions regarding natural immunity to feel confident in the protection it provides. Children who had COVID-19 can get vaccinated as soon as they’ve recovered and ended their isolation.

SAFETY

Q: Are the side effects similar for children?
A: Yes. Pfizer said the doses were “well tolerated, with side effects generally comparable to those observed in participants 16 to 25 years of age,” including pain at the injection site, fatigue and headache.

Q: How do I know it’s safe for my child?
A: The FDA and CDC take vaccine safety very seriously before approval. They thoroughly examine the clinical trial data before deciding whether to authorize vaccination for different age groups and continually monitor the vaccines carefully for any safety issues. Please contact your child’s pediatrician with any questions or concerns so you can make an informed decision.
GETTING THE VACCINE

Q: Will Houston Methodist provide Pfizer vaccines for children?
A: Yes.

Q: Is it free?
A: Yes.

Q: Should I delay my child’s flu shot until after they receive the Pfizer vaccine?
A: No. There is no need to delay your child’s COVID-19 vaccine or flu shot, as it is safe to get those at the same time. Here’s guidance from the CDC on that story on the Houston Methodist blog, On Health.

*This FAQ will be updated periodically to include evolving data and opinions from the Vaccine Scientific Committee*