



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

**Date:** November 5, 2021

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# Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Authorized for Ages 5–11

As of November 3, 2021, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for children ages 5–11 by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), and Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup—enabling parents to vaccinate their young children against COVID-19.

*Guidance included in this two-page advisory:*

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| 1. Eligibility and requirements                                   | 4. Allergies                 |
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| 3. Importance of vaccine protection against COVID-19 for children | 6. Side effects              |

### 1. Eligibility and requirements

The pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine series is authorized for children ages 5 to 11 who have not already been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Children who have recovered from COVID-19 are also encouraged to get vaccinated for protection against reinfection.

Anyone under 18 is required to have an **accompanying adult**: a parent/guardian or caregiver present at the vaccine appointment. Parent/guardian can give consent to a trusted adult, such as a **teacher**, over phone or Facetime during the appointment.

### 2. About the pediatric Pfizer vaccine

The pediatric Pfizer vaccine is the same mRNA technology as the “adult” (i.e., ages  $\geq 12$ ) vaccine. The pediatric product comes in a different vial and needs dilution before administering. Each dose carries 1/3 the amount of vaccine as the adult product. The second dose is given at least 3 weeks later. If a child turns 12 before the second dose after having received a pediatric first dose, the child’s second dose should be the “adult” (age 12-and-over) dose, according to CDC guidance.

### 3. Importance of vaccine protection against COVID-19 for children

- Prevent serious illness, hospitalization, and death.
  - COVID-19 is in the top 10 causes of pediatric death.
- Prevent prolonged symptoms (long haul COVID-19).
- Prevent rare but serious complications of COVID-19 infection: Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)
- Prevent transmission in the community, schools, and at home—particularly to immunocompromised household members or caregivers.
- Eliminate the need to quarantine following a known or possible exposure.

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#### Public Health Department

2191 Johnson Avenue | San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 | (P) 805-781-5500 | (F) 805-781-5543

[www.slopublichealth.org](http://www.slopublichealth.org)

#### **4. Allergies**

The Pfizer vaccine contains very few allergens and is generally safe for children who are allergic to other vaccines. However, children allergic to Polyethylene Glycol (PEG) should not receive this vaccine (PEG is an ingredient in the mRNA vaccines). Children who have a severe reaction to the first dose (such as anaphylaxis) should not get the second dose. Learn more:

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/specific-groups/allergies.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/specific-groups/allergies.html)

Parents concerned about allergic reactions to the pediatric Pfizer vaccine should consult their pediatrician. If they do not have a pediatrician, they may call the Public Health Department and ask to speak with a public health nurse: 805-781-5500.

#### **5. Administering to children**

The Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine should be administered as a two-dose primary series, 3 weeks apart. It is a lower dose (10 micrograms) than that used for individuals 12 years of age and older (30 micrograms). It is safe to coadminister with the influenza or other vaccines at the same appointment.

Learn more: [emergency.cdc.gov/coca/ppt/2021/110421\\_slide.pdf](https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/ppt/2021/110421_slide.pdf)

#### **6. Side effects**

Much like in adults, possible side effects are mild and resolve in 1 to 2 days. Severe side effects are very uncommon (<1%).

Learn more: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html)

For more information on the pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, visit:

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/planning/children.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/planning/children.html)