Children’s COVID-19 Vaccine Information

What age groups are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine?
- Everyone ages 5+ can receive a free COVID-19 vaccine.

Which vaccine can children receive?
- Children ages 5 – 11, like children 12 – 17, are now eligible for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.
- This vaccine requires two doses taken 3 weeks apart.

Why should I get my child vaccinated?
- As of October 28th, over 6.4 million COVID-19 pediatric cases have been reported and nearly 25,000 children have been hospitalized with COVID-19.
- Over 600 pediatric deaths have been reported. While this number is lower for kids than adults, COVID-19 is a top 10 cause of death for kids in the U.S.
- Approximately 7-8% of children with COVID-19 experience long COVID-19, or long-term effects from the virus.

Is the vaccine safe for children?
- Kids 5 – 11 receive a third of an adult dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Kids may have similar side effects as adults including a sore arm and fatigue. These are normal signs that their bodies are building protection against COVID-19 and will not last more than a few days.
- COVID-19 vaccines have been proven to be safe & continue to undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history.

Is the vaccine effective for children?
- The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine authorized for this group is over 90% effective at preventing COVID-19.
- Especially with the Delta variant, vaccinating children against COVID-19 will help protect them from getting COVID-19 and therefore reduce their risk of severe disease, hospitalizations, or developing long-term COVID-19 complications.
- Getting your child vaccinated can help protect them against COVID-19, as well as reducing disruptions to in-person learning and activities by helping curb community transmission.

When can I get my child vaccinated?
- Full capacity to administer children’s vaccines is expected nationwide beginning the week of November 8th.
- Houston Health Department began administering COVID-19 vaccines to children 5 and older on Friday, November 5th.
- Most providers will announce when sites will begin serving the 5 – 11 population, but you can also call ahead to see when this newly eligible population will be served by your vaccine provider.

You can use SaferTogetherHarris.org to find the nearest vaccination clinic to you.

Resources:
CDC Media Release
CDC Vaccines for Children and Teens
CDC Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Children Aged 5 – 11 years