



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tanya Phillips, Jackson County Public Health, 541-770-7708

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COVID-19 Vaccine Update

[Medford, Oregon] — Over the past weekend, COVID-19 vaccines for children 6 months to 5 years of age were approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director, Rochelle P Walensky, M.D., MPH and the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup.

Parents and caregivers can now get their children 6 months through 5 years of age vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines to better protect them from COVID-19. All children, including children who have already had COVID-19, should get vaccinated.

Comparing COVID-19 Vaccine for Children Ages 6 months to 5 Years

	Pfizer	Moderna
Ages Eligible	Children 6 months through 4 years	Children 6 months through 5 years
Dose Size	3 micrograms, 1/10 of Pfizer’s adult dose	25 micrograms, ¼ of the Moderna’s adult dose
Number of Doses and Timing	Three doses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second dose at least 21 days after the first dose • Third dose at least two months after the second dose 	Two doses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second dose at least 28 days after the first dose • <i>Third dose for patients who are moderate to severely immunocompromised</i>
Time to Full Protection	About two weeks after the third dose	About two weeks after the second dose

For children that are under 6 months of age, there are things that parents/guardians can do to protect them. This includes:

- Vaccinate yourself and those who spend time with your child
- Breastfeeding can provide antibodies from the mother’s breastmilk

- People who are currently pregnant should get vaccinated, as the antibodies are passed on to the baby. Babies that are born to vaccinated mothers are far less likely to be diagnosed with COVID-19 or end up hospitalized for COVID-19.

The most common side effects from the COVID-19 vaccines for children 6 months to 5 years were:

- For children 6-23 months old, irritability and drowsiness.
- For children 2-5 years, pain at the injection site, low fever, and fatigue.
- No myocarditis cases were reported in clinical trials.

“We have seen that individuals who are vaccinated are at far lower risk of being hospitalized or dying from COVID-19,” states Dr. Leona O’Keefe, Health Officer for Jackson County Public Health. During Omicron, the only unvaccinated age group—those under age 5—were hospitalized at a rate 5 times greater than the previous peak during Delta.¹ In Oregon, children under 5 were also the most hospitalized pediatric group even though they had lower rates of infection. About half of those children were healthy with no prior health conditions that would be them at risk of developing severe complications.²

“We are grateful to have safe, effective vaccines finally available for our youngest children to help protect them against potentially serious disease and long COVID. I know decisions to care for our children are not always easy, so I urge parents and caretakers to discuss questions and concerns with their child’s healthcare provider,” says Dr. O’Keefe.

Accessing COVID-19 Vaccines for Children 6 Months to 5 Years

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for children 6 months to 5 years are beginning to arrive throughout Oregon this week and in the coming weeks. Not every COVID-19 vaccine provider will be offering this vaccine and not every provider will receive the COVID-19 vaccines for children 6 months to 5 years at the same time these next couple of weeks. Therefore, it is best to reach out to your primary care provider, pediatrician, pharmacy, or public health department to see if they will be providing the vaccine and if they are ready to begin vaccinating this population.

Starting June 21, 2022, Jackson County Public Health has begun scheduling appointments for children 6 months to 5 years of age. Jackson County Public Health will carry both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines.

Where to Get Vaccinated

- Reach out to your doctor’s office, child’s pediatrician, or pharmacy
- Text ORCOVID to 898211 (English and Spanish) or email ORCOVID@211info.org (language help available);
- Call 211 or 1-866-698-6155, toll-free, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, including holidays
- Visit [Where to get vaccinated in Jackson County](#) website

Update on the Oregon Health Authority COVID-19 Vaccination Site at the Jackson County Expo

The Oregon Health Authority COVID-19 vaccination site at the Jackson County Expo will be closing on June 30, 2022. The last day to receive a COVID-19 vaccine or COVID-19 test from this location will be June 30, 2022.

- **Location:** Jackson County Expo, 1 Peninger Rd. Central Point
- **Gate Entrance:** 1
- **Hours of Operation:**
 - Thursday-Saturday, 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 - Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

References

1. Marks KJ, Whitaker M, Agathis NT, et al. Hospitalization of Infants and Children Aged 0–4 Years with Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19 — COVID-NET, 14 States, March 2020–February 2022. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2022;71:429–436. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7111e2>
2. Oregon Health Authority Website. Pediatric COVID-19 Cases: Demographics. Updated 6/11/2022. Accessed 6/21/2022. <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/oregon.health.authority.covid.19/viz/OregonCOVID-19PediatricReport/Demographics>

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