6 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR CHILDREN

1. COVID-19 vaccination for children is safe

Before recommending COVID-19 vaccination for children, scientists conducted studies and determined the Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective for children ages 5 and older.

Ongoing safety monitoring shows that COVID-19 vaccination continues to be safe for children and the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine outweigh the known and potential risks.

Tips for Parents and Caregivers:

• Before vaccination, tell the vaccine provider about any allergies your child may have — just like what you would do when they receive their routine vaccines.

• If needed, request accommodations at COVID-19 vaccination sites: When making an appointment or arriving for vaccination, you can let clinic staff know your child needs accommodations for their physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional differences. If needed, homebound services can be requested by calling 855-635-0235 or emailing homebound@snhd.org.

2. Getting vaccinated helps protect children against COVID-19

Vaccinating children can:

• Prevent children from getting seriously sick if they do get COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccination continues to protect children against serious disease and hospitalization. There is no way to tell in advance how children will be impacted by COVID-19. Children with underlying medical conditions are more likely to get severely ill; however, healthy children without underlying medical conditions can also experience severe illness.

• Keep children safer while in childcare and school and participating in sports, playdates, extracurricular activities, and other group activities.

3. Children may have some side effects after the COVID-19 vaccination.

Reported side effects are like those experienced after routine vaccinations. Side effects may affect your child’s ability to do daily activities, but they should go away within a few days and are more common after the second shot. Some children do not experience side effects.
4. **A different dosage of the COVID-19 vaccine is given to children.**

The COVID-19 vaccine for children has the same active ingredients as the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine given to people ages 12 years and older. However, the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5 through 11 years is a smaller dose. COVID-19 vaccine dosage is based on age on the day of vaccination, not the patient’s weight. This is also true for other routinely recommended vaccines, like hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccines.

5. **Children who have already had COVID-19 should still get vaccinated.**

Emerging evidence is showing that people can get added protection by getting vaccinated after they have been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 after getting their first shot, they should wait until their recommended isolation period has ended before getting their second shot. The second dose is recommended at least four weeks after the first dose. For children, 12 years and older without a weakened immune system, the time between doses one and two can be at least eight weeks.

6. **Children can safely receive other vaccines the same day they receive their COVID-19 vaccine.**

Routine vaccination is important preventive care that should not be delayed. If your child is receiving multiple vaccines during a single visit, each injection will be given in a different injection site, according to vaccine recommendations by age.

For a list of COVID-19 vaccination sites, go to www.snhd.info/covid-vaccine.