

## **The Pfizer Pediatric COVID19 Vaccine is Here!**

**PLEASE SIGN UP ON MYCHART IF YOU ARE ABLE**

**If you are unable to sign up on MyChart please send us a MyChart message requesting a call back or give the office a call after 9am.**

**Children ages 5-11 are eligible for the vaccine.**

**Please log into your MyChart account to sign up for a vaccine**

Please log onto MyChart to sign up for your COVID shot. Here are some important points:

- All children in a single family may come together, at the same appointment time, for their covid shots.
- Please be prepared to wait 15 minutes after the shot, 30 minutes if your child has a history of allergy to food or medication.
- Once your child has received the first vaccine, you will be able to schedule their second vaccine through MyChart.
- Your child can receive the flu shot at the same time as the covid shot.
- Your child can receive the covid shot at their well visit.
- We will offer the covid vaccine in early mornings, throughout the day and into the evening. We will also give the vaccine on Saturdays and Sundays!

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

**How will I sign my child up for the COVID vaccine?** Please sign up through MyChart if you are able. We are currently inundated with calls, and we are doing our best to answer everyone in a timely fashion. We have been given the great task of vaccinating our patients while providing ongoing routine medical care while also taking care of our sick patients. This is a historic moment; we are doing our best to care for our patients while maintaining good cheer and thoughtful care.

**Can my child receive other vaccines at the same time as the COVID vaccine?** Yes! It is safe to give different vaccines at the same time. We encourage everyone to receive their flu vaccine and will happily give it to you, along with the COVID vaccine, if you need it.

**If my child is already scheduled for a flu vaccine, can they also receive the COVID vaccine?** Yes! If your child is already scheduled for a flu vaccine you do not need to schedule a

covid vaccine – just come in for your appointment and we will give you the covid vaccine at the same time.

**Can my child receive their COVID vaccine at their well child vaccine?** Yes! The COVID vaccine will be offered at all well visits, over the age of 5.

**Should my 11-year-old receive the pediatric vaccine or wait until the age of 12 to receive the larger dose?** We recommend your child receive the pediatric vaccine as soon as they are able. The dosing of the pediatric vaccine is 1/3 that of the adult vaccine. For children and vaccines, it is their age that matters more than their size. The pediatric data show excellent protection for children, even those who are almost 12. In addition, people seem to get more side effects when the dose is higher. Two good reasons to give an 11-year-old the pediatric dose!

**Does the vaccine cause myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle)?** To our best knowledge, the risk of myocarditis caused by the vaccine is low and lower than the risk of myocarditis caused by COVID infection. Therefore, we recommend that children receive the COVID vaccine.

**Will the vaccine affect my child's menstrual cycle, puberty, or future fertility?** There is no evidence that the vaccine impacts a person's menstrual cycle, puberty, or future fertility.

**Can I give my child under the age of 5 receive the vaccine?** No. There is no safety data for children under the age of 5 and it is not FDA approved. Therefore, we will not give the vaccine to anyone younger than 5.

**Can my child become infected with COVID even after they are vaccinated?** Yes. However, the risk of symptomatic COVID is reduced significantly once a child is fully vaccinated.

**Will my child have side effects from the vaccine?** In clinical trials some children had no side effects and some, like adults, had short term side effects after the vaccine. Overall, children 5-11 years old had short term side effects less often than older adolescents and adults. Common side effects include fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, vomiting, fever and pain at the injection site. These usually go away in a day or so.