

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kristin Prelipp, Communications Manager and Public Information Officer
kprelipp@orangecountync.gov or 919-245-2462

LINK TO MEDIA RELEASE

Vaccines for Children Ages 6 Months to Under 5 Years Will Be Available in Orange County June 27th

HILLSBOROUGH, N.C. June 27, 2022 — Children ages 6 months and older can now receive a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends all children who are eligible receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is available in Orange County following the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) emergency use authorization and the CDC's recommendation.

"Many parents and families have been eagerly awaiting a vaccine to protect our youngest North Carolinians," said NCDHHS Secretary Kody H. Kinsley. "These vaccines are the best way to protect children from COVID-19 -- they are safe, effective and free."

Children ages 6 months to younger than 5 get a smaller vaccine dose than any other age group. This vaccine dose differs from the vaccine that was previously authorized for children ages 5 to 11. Booster shots are currently not authorized for children in this age group.

As with all routine vaccinations for children, these vaccines were tested and reviewed by the FDA and the CDC and their independent scientific committees to ensure they are safe for children. Results from ongoing clinical trials that began in March 2021 showed the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines were safe and effective to protect children ages 6 months to under 5 years from COVID-19. **The Pfizer vaccine is currently authorized for three doses, while the Moderna will initially begin as two. Moderna is currently testing their third dose, with data expected this summer.**

There were no safety concerns or serious side effects noted in the clinical trials for either vaccine.

Children between the ages of 3 and 5 have the option of getting vaccinated at a pharmacy or grocery store in addition to a doctor's office or local health center. Children under 3 years are not able to be vaccinated by a pharmacist. Parents and guardians of children who do not have an established medical provider can visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.myspot.nc.gov) to search for a nearby vaccine provider.

Children may be able to get vaccinated for COVID-19 and other routine shots they are due for at the same visit. This is also a good time for them to get a routine checkup.

Children may experience temporary and minimal side effects. These side effects are similar to adults – a sore arm, headache and being tired or achy for a day or two.

According to the CDC, children under 5 had the highest rate of hospitalizations compared to other pediatric groups. COVID-19 cases in children can result in hospitalization, death, MIS-C (inflammation in different parts of the body) and long-term problems with symptoms that last for months. Vaccines will help reduce infections and transmission, bringing all North Carolinians closer to fewer family disruptions ahead of the summer months and school year.

Everyone ages 6 months and older can receive a free COVID-19 vaccine, even if they don't have health insurance and regardless of their immigration status. Parents and guardians with questions about COVID-19 vaccines should talk with their child's physician.

North Carolina's actions are based on recommendations from the CDC. Read the CDC's full statement [here](#).

For more information about how vaccines for children work and where you can find a vaccination appointment nearby, visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.myspot.nc.gov). The North Carolina COVID-19 Vaccine Help Center can also help you make an appointment by calling 888-675-4567. The help center is open 7 a.m.-7 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on weekends.

You may also call the Orange County Health Department at (919) 913-8088 to make an appointment or visit [takemyshot.nc.gov](https://www.takemyshot.nc.gov). The call center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. They speak Spanish and other languages.

Related Graphics

- 6 x 9-inch Postcard English:
<https://www.orangecountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/20251/VACCINATION--EVERYONE-english-web>
- 6 x 9-inch Postcard Spanish:
<https://www.orangecountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/20252/VACCINATION--EVERYONE-spanish-web>
- 6 x 9-inch Postcard Chinese:
https://www.orangecountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/20274/9X6_INCH_EVERYONE-chinese
- 6 x 9-inch Postcard Swahili:
https://www.orangecountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/20275/9X6_INCH_EVERYONE-swahili



EVERYONE 6 months or older is now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine

The **Pfizer** vaccine is approved for ages **6 months and up**. **Moderna** is approved for **6 months to 5 years of age** and also **18 and older**. **J & J** is approved for ages **18 and up**.

Getting vaccinated is free and convenient.

Check out www.orangecountync.gov/getyourshot to see the schedule of walk-in and pop-up clinics. Or visit vaccines.gov to choose a time and date that works for your schedule!

You may also call **919-913-8088** to schedule. Spanish and other languages are available.

Know the facts. The COVID-19 vaccines:

- ✓ **Protect you, your family, and the people in your community** from getting COVID-19. Even if you have had COVID-19, it is important to get the shot.
- ✓ **May cause mild, temporary, side effects** like a sore arm, headaches, fever, or fatigue. These side effects are signs that the vaccine is working.
- ✓ **Are effective, safe and FREE.**
- ✗ **Do not change your DNA.**
- ✗ **Do not contain fetal cells, animal products, or microchips.**
- ✗ **Do not contain the COVID-19 virus.** Vaccines teach your body how to create antibodies that protect you from COVID-19.
- ✗ **Do not affect your fertility.**



###