

MIHP Email Alert- June 22, 2022



COVID-19 Vaccine Now Recommended for 6 Months Through 4 Years



Safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines are available for everyone ages 6 months and older.

www.cdc.gov

It is official - CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccination for **everyone 6 months and older**. Since this became official over the weekend, clinics are working quickly to operationalize this momentous opportunity to protect families. This update impacts a great number of MIHP families across the state who have children 6 months and older. Please consider the resources and talking points below to help support families in protecting their children against COVID-19.

On Saturday, CDC announced their recommendations for children under 5 years of age. Below is a summary of these most recent recommendations (for children who are not immunocompromised):

- **Pfizer for ages 6 months through 4 years:** 3 doses
 - The first and second doses are separated by 3-8 weeks.
 - The second and third doses are separated by at least 8 weeks.
- **Moderna for ages 6 months through 5 years:** 2 doses
 - The doses are given 4-8 weeks apart.

For a visual, [view this graphic](#). For immunocompromised children, see [detailed recommendations](#)

Key Points and Reminders

- Safety: COVID-19 vaccines are monitored under the most comprehensive and intense vaccine safety monitoring program in U.S. history. Rigorous clinical trials and ongoing monitoring have deemed these vaccines [safe and effective in children](#).
- COVID-19 impact on young children: Since January 2020, [over 200 children](#) age 6 months through 4 years have died of COVID-19. For this age group, the Omicron surge has led to the highest numbers of COVID-19 cases, emergency department visits, and hospitalization rates seen during the pandemic. More than half of hospitalized children ages 6 months–4 years had **no underlying conditions**. Vaccination is key to protecting children and families against severe illness, hospitalization, and death.
- Why vaccinate children? Check out CDC's [talking points here](#).

Access

As with previous authorizations, COVID-19 vaccine is **free of charge to everyone living in the United States, regardless of immigration or health insurance status**.

Vaccination may involve different access points than families previously used. For example, although pharmacies are highly utilized, be sure to ask if they have certain age limitations for vaccination. Additional partners are also key in their ability to vaccinate infants and toddlers – such as pediatricians, family practices, health departments, community health centers, etc. Use the following resources to access COVID-19 vaccine:

Find a COVID-19 Vaccine:

- [Vaccines.gov](#)
 - 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489); Help is available in a variety of languages.
 - Disability information and access line: 1-888-677-1199
 - [Michigan.gov/KidsCOVIDVaccine](#)
 - Contact your pediatrician, [Health Department](#), [Health Center](#), or other healthcare provider.
 - Call 2-1-1.

Vaccine Conversation Resources:

- [Resources to Promote COVID-19 Vaccination for Children and Teens](#)
 - *Fact sheets coming soon for Parents and Caregivers*
- [Quick Conversation Guide on COVID-19 Vaccines for Children](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Equity in Childhood COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

Getting Kids Caught Up: This is an opportunity to also assess non-pandemic, routine childhood vaccines. The pandemic dramatically impacted vaccination [rates of Michigan children](#), putting children and communities at risk of other diseases as well. This expansion of COVID-19 vaccine to younger ages creates not only an opportunity to receive protection against COVID-19 but **also to get caught up on other vaccines**.

Our communication for the Maternal Infant Health Program has been streamlined to a single email address and phone number. Please forward all email to MIHP@michigan.gov. For further assistance, contact the state office @ **1-833-MI4-MIHP (1-833-644-6447)**. Thank you.



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