



Children's National

COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions for Community Pediatricians

Children's National and HSC will be administering vaccine to qualified patients ages 16 and older who reside in Washington, D.C., and have a qualifying chronic health condition associated with a higher risk of severe COVID-19 infection.

D.C. residents age 16-17 who are not patients of Children's National, but do have qualifying chronic health conditions associated with higher risk of severe COVID-19 infection can be added to an invitation waitlist by accessing the [DC Vaccine Portal](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccinatedc) <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccinatedc>. There is no current vaccine for children under 16 years.

Children's National COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Waitlist:

If you have a patient that has been seen at CNH or HSC and they have not received an invitation for vaccination from us, and you believe they meet all the criteria, please contact your physician liaison to add your patient to the Children's National COVID Vaccine Waitlist.

- Washington D.C, Montgomery County, Western Maryland
 - Shay Wilkinson, sraugh@childrensnational.org, 301-919-0286
- Virginia
 - Carolina Hamidi-Imani, carolina.hamidi@childrensnational.org, 202-702-9505
- Central and Southern Maryland, Anne Arundel and Howard Counties
 - Amica Fuqua, afuqua@childrensnational.org, 301-212-0403

How will I be informed that my patient received their vaccine at Children's National?

When a patient receives a COVID-19 vaccine at Children's National, we will send records to the D.C. immunization registry, and CRISP will be leveraged to document administration of vaccine. Patients will also receive a card indicating the date of vaccine, manufacturer, lot number and date of immunization. We are encouraging patients to inform their PCP when they receive the vaccine.

Which vaccine does Children's National have?

So far, Children's National has received the Pfizer vaccine. Going forward, it is possible that we will receive Moderna and/or Johnson & Johnson vaccines as well.

How will my patient receive the vaccine from Children's National?

Children's National and HSC have extended personal invitations to patients who meet the criteria to qualify for vaccination. The communication informing patients of their selection may come from HSC, their Children's National specialist's office or a general Children's National address. The invitation will include additional information and instructions to make an appointment for the vaccine.

If you have a patient that has been seen at CNH or HSC and they have not received an invitation from us, and you believe they meet all the criteria, please add your patient to the [Children's National COVID Vaccine Waitlist](#) to place the patient on a waitlist.

How was the first wave of vaccine recipients selected?

We are following CDC guidelines, Children's National experts and DC Department of Health recommendations to determine who to invite for vaccination. We used health data to identify patients that fall within certain age ranges and have chronic conditions associated with higher risk of severe COVID-19 infection. We are only permitted to immunize patients who reside in Washington, D.C.

Why can't you offer the vaccine to all eligible patients once the vaccine is available?

Vaccine supply continues to be unpredictable. If we offer vaccine to a patient, we want to ensure that we can fulfill our offer. We also anticipate lots of interest from patients once we offer vaccine.

Can family members also receive the vaccine?

No, we are only vaccinating eligible patients of Children's National Hospital and HSC. Siblings (even those who are over 16) cannot be vaccinated at this time unless they have also been identified as qualifying for a vaccine.

Can a parent/guardian be vaccinated and refuse vaccine for their eligible child?

No, at this time we are only vaccinating eligible patients of Children's National Hospital.

Can my patient get the vaccine without a parent or guardian present?

No, one parent or guardian must be on-site to consent to their 16-17 year old dependent child getting the vaccine. Parental consent for dependent children is required since the vaccine has been approved through an FDA Emergency Use Authorization. Telephone or electronic consent is not permitted – the parent or guardian must be present at the vaccine appointment.

My patient has a qualifying condition but does not reside in Washington, D.C. How will he/she receive a vaccine?

Each state is developing vaccination plans for their residents. Please check with your state or local health department to understand the plan for your patient.

COVID-19 Vaccines at Children's National: Getting the Vaccine

Are there any other reasons that would prevent my patient from being able to receive the vaccine?

A child will not be able to receive the vaccine at Children's National if:

- They've had a severe allergic reaction to injectable medications or vaccines in the past.
- Your patient has received any vaccine other than the COVID-19 vaccine in the past 14 days.
- Your patient currently has a lab-confirmed COVID-19 infection or is under quarantine from lab-confirmed positive test.
- Your patient is currently under quarantine due to a close contact exposure in the past 14 days.
- Your patient is having COVID-like symptoms, including fever/chills, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, sore throat, cough, congestion/runny nose, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, loss of sense of smell or taste.
- Your patient has a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient of the COVID-19 vaccine.

- The ingredients are: mRNA, lipids ((4-hydroxybutyl)azanediyl)bis(hexane-6,1-diyl)bis(2-hexyldecanoate), 2 [(polyethylene glycol)-2000]-N,N-ditetradecylacetamide, 1,2-Distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine, and cholesterol), potassium chloride, monobasic potassium phosphate, sodium chloride, dibasic sodium phosphate dihydrate, and sucrose.
- MiraLax is a common form of polyethylene glycol.
- Your patient has received a COVID-19 vaccine elsewhere.
- Your patient had a severe allergic reaction to a previous dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- If your patient is pregnant or breastfeeding, they should consult with their OB before obtaining a vaccination.

Why does my patient have to make an appointment to get the vaccine when one becomes available for him/her?

Some logistics of administering the vaccine require us to know who is coming and when. The vaccine is only good for a certain amount of time once it is thawed or diluted and patients must be monitored for 15 minutes following vaccination for adverse reactions.

Does my patient have to receive both doses at Children's National?

We strongly recommend that patients receive both doses of vaccine at Children's National. We want to ensure that patients are appropriately vaccinated and protected against COVID-19 infection. DC Health also expects us to complete the vaccination series for all patients who receive vaccinations from us.

How important is exact timing for the second dose?

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have a range of days in which the second dose of vaccine can be administered. If patients miss that time frame, they do not need to restart the series and should receive the second dose as soon as possible. This may depend on availability of vaccine at that time.

When will my patient need to get a second dose of the vaccine?

The Pfizer vaccine requires a second dose 21 days after the first. The Moderna vaccine requires a second dose 28 days after the first. The second dose must be the same manufacturer as their first.

Can my patient choose which vaccine they receive?

Due to limited supply, your patient will not be able to choose which vaccine they receive at this time.

COVID-19 Vaccines at Children's National: After Vaccination

What if my patient has a reaction to the vaccine?

Patients are monitored for adverse reactions for 15 minutes following the vaccination. If the patient experiences a life-threatening reaction after that 15 minutes, the caregiver should call 9-1-1. If the patient experiences a non-life-threatening reaction after that 15 minutes, they should contact their primary care provider for medical advice. If you are contacted for advice by a patient or caregiver about a moderate to severe vaccine reaction or an unusual vaccine reaction, please report the reaction using the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System co-managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

If my patient gets vaccinated, will they still have to wear a mask and observe other safety precautions?

Yes, the CDC recommends continuing safety precautions: masking, social distancing and hand washing for everyone regardless of whether they've received the vaccine.

How long will the vaccine protect my patient from COVID-19? Will they need to get vaccinated every year?

It is unknown how long the vaccine will protect your patient. Pfizer and Moderna will follow their clinical trial participants for at least a year and will be able to provide information about lasting protection in the future.

General Vaccine Information

This vaccine uses mRNA. How does it work?

Pfizer and Moderna's vaccines do not inject or produce the COVID-19 virus in your body. Instead, they use an mRNA molecule that instructs your cells to make a copy of a harmless protein that is on the outer shell of the COVID-19 virus. When your immune system detects this protein, it begins to produce antibodies as if the body has been infected. The antibodies will help your immune system fight off future COVID-19 infections.

Does the vaccine have any side effects?

Pfizer and Moderna have reported no serious safety concerns from their vaccines. All study participants have been followed for at least 2 months after getting vaccinated to look for side effects and will continue to be followed for 1-2 years in total. Some participants have reported sore arms, fatigue, fever and joint and muscle aches that last for a day or two. It is important to know that if you experience any of these reactions, that this is normal and means the vaccine is working.

Is there any data on the vaccine in pregnant women?

There is currently no data on the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine for pregnant or breastfeeding women.

Clinical Trials

What were the results of the clinical trials?

Almost 74,000 adults participated in Pfizer and Moderna's clinical trials. Both Pfizer and Moderna have reported that their vaccines are more than 94% effective at protecting you against having COVID-19 disease with symptoms.

What are the demographics of the clinical trial participants?

Both clinical trials included diverse participants; approximately every 4 out of 10 participants was non-white. In Pfizer's clinical trial, the participants were 4.5% Asian, 10% Black, 26.1% Hispanic/Latinx, 0.8% Native American, and 67% White. In Moderna's clinical trial, the participants were 4% Asian, 10% Black, 20% Hispanic/Latinx, 3% Other, and 63% White. Read more about Pfizer's [clinical trial participants](#). Read more about Moderna's [clinical trial participants](#).

How old were the clinical trial participants?

Adults over age 65 were included in both clinical trials. Moderna's clinical trial included participants as young as 18. Pfizer's clinical trial included participants as young as 16. Pfizer began enrolling participants as young as 12 years old in October 2020 but have not released data yet.

For more information visit: www.Childrensnational.org/coronavirus