COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children and Teens

CDC Facts to Consider When Deciding Whether to Have your Child Vaccinated –

1. Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for my child?
   - Before recommending COVID-19 vaccination for children, scientists conducted clinical trials. The FDA gave Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine emergency authorization to use in children ages 5-15 years old and full approval to use in people ages 16 years and older.
   - COVID-19 vaccines are being monitored for safety with the most comprehensive and intense safety monitoring program in U.S. history. CDC monitors the safety of all COVID-19 vaccines after the vaccines are authorized or approved for use, including the risk of myocarditis in children ages 5 through 11 years.
     - Your child may get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines, including flu vaccine, at the same time.
     - Serious health events after COVID-19 vaccination are rare.
     - Cases of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the outer lining of the heart) have been reported after Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccination of children ages 12-17 years. These reactions are rare (in one study, approx. 54 cases per million doses administered to males ages 12-17 years).
     - A severe allergic reaction, like anaphylaxis, may happen after any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines, but this is rare.
     - Your child cannot get COVID-19 from any COVID-19 vaccine, including Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.
     - There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccine causes fertility problems.

2. Why should children and teens get vaccinated for COVID-19?
   - Although children are at a lower risk of becoming severely ill with COVID-19, compared with adults, children can
     - Be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19
     - Get very sick from COVID-19
     - Have both short and long-term health complications from COVID-19
     - Spread COVID-19 to others
   - Children who get infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 can also develop serious complications like multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) – a condition where different parts of the body become inflamed, including the: Heart, Lungs, Kidneys, Brain, Skin, Eyes, or Gastrointestinal Organs
   - “Getting children vaccinated is the best way to protect them and others against COVID-19. Vaccination is the safest and most effective way to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and the risk of long-term complications from COVID-19 (CDC).”

3. Will my 5-11 year old receive the same dosage of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine as those ages 12 years and older?
   - No -
     - The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children ages 5 though 11 years has the same ingredients as the vaccine given to adults and adolescents.
     - However, children ages 5 through 11 years receive an age-appropriate dose that is 1/3 of the adult dose of the vaccine.
     - Unlike many medications, COVID-19 vaccine dosage does not vary by weight, but by age on the day of vaccination.
     - Your child will need a second shot of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine 3 weeks after their first shot.

4. Talk to your child’s healthcare provider about this decision and ask them any additional questions you may have before getting your child vaccinated.