The Covid-19 Vaccine for Children Ages Six Months Through Five Years

I. Introduction

Covid-19 vaccines for children ages six months through five years were recently approved by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The CDC recommends that all children in this age group get vaccinated to protect them from severe disease. There are two vaccines available for this age group:

- The Pfizer vaccine
  - For children ages six months through four years
  - The Pfizer vaccine is a three-dose regimen

- The Moderna vaccine
  - For children ages six months through five years
  - The Moderna vaccine is a two-dose regimen

II. The Vaccine Options for Children Five and Under

Pfizer Vaccine: Children ages six months through four years can be vaccinated with Pfizer’s Covid-19 three-dose regimen. The first two shots should be given three weeks apart, and the last shot is given eight weeks after the second dose.

The same dosing regimen applies to children who are moderately or severely immunocompromised.

Moderna Vaccine: The Moderna vaccine is for children ages six months up through five years, and it is a two-dose regimen. The second shot should be given four weeks after the first dose.

Children who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should receive three doses of the Moderna vaccine, with the third dose following four weeks after the second shot.

III. Where Can My Child Get Vaccinated?

In Pennsylvania, pharmacists are only allowed to vaccinate children who are ages three or older. This means for children under three to get the Covid vaccine, they must either go to their pediatrician, attend a vaccine clinic at another pediatric practice, or attend a clinic that has a pediatrician on site. For example, some county departments of health are operating clinics in partnership with local pediatricians.

However, some pediatricians are not stocking the vaccine, and others that are may be limiting their appointments to current patients. This can make it difficult to find a vaccine provider for a child under three, so you may need to be prepared to travel to get your baby or toddler vaccinated.

To find a vaccine provider near you that serves children, visit https://www.vaccines.gov/search/. There, you can filter your search by vaccine type. You will not be able to determine whether the vaccine provider can vaccinate children under three, however. You should plan to call the provider to confirm what ages they serve. You can also call the Pennsylvania Department of Health’s hotline, 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) to speak with someone who can help you locate vaccine providers.

IV. Frequently Asked Questions
If either you or your child has a disability, it may be important that the vaccination process is accessible. Below are answers to frequently asked questions.

Q: I was able to schedule an appointment, but the location is not accessible to me or my child. What can I do?

A: First, DO NOT cancel your appointment. Vaccination providers are required to make reasonable accommodations to their established practices and procedures in order to provide people with disabilities with the vaccine. An accommodation might include offering your child a curbside shot, meaning someone would meet you outside and vaccinate your child, or meet you in an alternate area of the building.

We suggest contacting the provider ahead of time, explaining your need for accommodation, and asking how they can accommodate you. If you run into problems getting a needed accommodation, call our vaccine hotline at 1-833-DRP-2-VAX.

Q: I have an appointment at a vaccination clinic but myself or my child cannot wait in line. What can I do?

A: You have the right to a reasonable accommodation. If possible, call the vaccination clinic in advance of your appointment to let them know of your or your child’s needs, and your requested accommodation (e.g., a chair to sit in, moving to the front of the line). If you cannot reach them, ask for the accommodation as soon as you arrive at your appointment. If you run into any difficulty getting an accommodation, call our vaccine hotline at 1-833-DRP-2-VAX for assistance.

Q: My child cannot leave my home but I would like for them to get vaccinated. What are my options?

A: If your child needs to be vaccinated at home, you should reach out to any one of the following state resources for assistance arranging an appointment:

- The Department of Health’s vaccine hotline, 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)
- The Disability Information and Access Line (DIAL) is available to help people with disabilities get vaccinated. You can call 888-677-1199 Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. or email DIAL@usaginganddisability.org

Your county may also maintain its own hotline for scheduling a shot at home.

Stay Connected!
If you need more information or need help, please contact Disability Rights Pennsylvania (DRP) at 800-692-7443 (voice) or 877-375-7139 (TDD). Our email address is: intake@disabilityrightspa.org. DRP’s live intake line is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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