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American Academy of Pediatrics

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November 03, 2021

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RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Authorized for 5-11-year old's

With vaccines now widely available to protect against COVID-19, we have made big steps toward ending the pandemic. As of November 02, 2021, a pediatric version of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is now approved for children aged 5-11. This is a vaccine designed for 5–11-year-olds and like all COVID-19 vaccines, is available for FREE in Illinois. Studies have concluded that the vaccine is safe and effective in children 5-11 and older.

The pediatric vaccine is given in two doses, 21 days apart. It is allowed to be given at the same time as other vaccines, such as the annual flu shot. We encourage you to plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine for your entire family as soon as you can – and especially before any holiday gatherings. **If your pediatrician does not yet offer the pediatric Pfizer vaccine, you can find at locations such as pharmacies or hospitals near you that does by:**

- Going to [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) (note children ages 5 to 17 can get the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine only)
- Texting your ZIP code to 438829
- Calling 1-800-232-0233

The COVID-19 vaccine is our best hope for keeping our children healthy and in school, ending the pandemic and returning to normal activities.

We hope schools and parents will help make sure children are caught up on their vaccines (flu, measles or MMR, whooping cough, etc.) and any others that your pediatrician or provider recommends, that may also be required for school entry. Please continue to follow the latest news on COVID-19 vaccines through the coronavirus.illinois.gov website and your local health department.

For more information, please talk to your child's health care provider and visit Healthychildren.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Dobbins, MD".

Mary Dobbins, MD, FAAP, President