

# **COVID-19 Vaccines for Children Ages 6 months – 4 years old**

**CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

SF Department of Public Health

*June 2022*

# Status of COVID-19 in San Francisco

- Hospitalizations
- Cases
- Vaccines



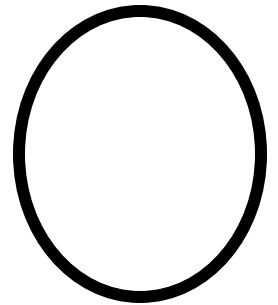
## Current status of COVID-19 hospitalizations in SF

## Current status of COVID-19 cases in SF

## Vaccinations

- Vaccines are the most effective way to decrease risk of COVID-19, including Omicron variants
- Research shows that current vaccines are highly effective in preventing severe infections and death
  - Vaccination lowered the risk of severe COVID-19 by 79%
- SF residents have gotten vaccinated at some of the highest rates in the nation
  - SF is role model in the United States
- Good news is that 88% of eligible SF population is fully vaccinated

## COVID-19 vaccinations



## COVID-19 Vaccines for Youth Ages 5-11

- Children ages 5-11 became eligible for vaccines in November 2021
- For children ages 5-11, 75% have completed their primary vaccine series in San Francisco

**Thank you to SF kids and their families  
for getting vaccinated!**

Children ages 6 months to 4 years old will also be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine soon!

- Vaccines for 6 months to 4 years old expected to be available **by late June 2022** after ACIP, CDC, and CDPH/Western States Scientific Safety Review

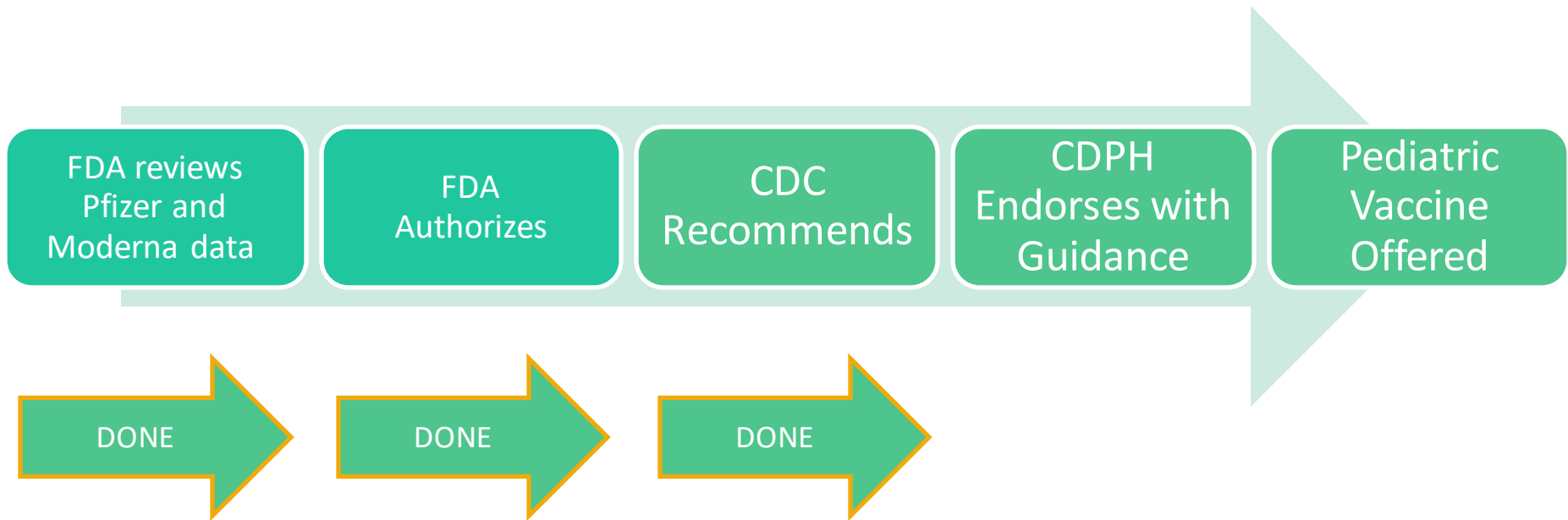


**The COVID-19 vaccine is here**

**Now it's your turn**



## Pediatric Eligibility Process and Timeline for 6 months to 4 years old



# SF Pediatric Vaccine Access Sites

## Pediatricians

- Your child's doctor

## Pharmacies

- Retail pharmacies can only vaccinate 3 and older
  - Some Walgreens
  - One CVS
- One local pharmacy – Mission Wellness

## Community Clinics/ Neighborhood Sites

- Limited

## Health Systems

- SF Health Network
- Dignity
- Kaiser Permanente
- Sutter
- UCSF

**COVID-19 Vaccines  
for Children  
Ages 6 months to  
4 years old**

# COVID-19 Vaccines

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Vaccines are important tools used in our society to protect against disease, hospitalization and death.

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They also had the usual FDA and the CDC rigorous and transparent review for safety and efficacy of vaccines prior to approval.

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The pediatric clinical trials included over 1,600 children (Pfizer) ages 6 months to 4 years old and 6,700 children (Moderna) ages 6 months to 5 years old nationwide over several months, including this year with the Omicron variants.



# COVID-19 Vaccines Available

## Authorized and Recommended Vaccines

Currently, three vaccines are authorized and recommended in the United States to prevent COVID-19:

Pfizer-BioNTech available for 5 and up **soon to be available for 6 months and up**

Moderna available for 18 and up, **soon to be available for 6 months and up**

Johnson & Johnson / Janssen available for 18 and up



## Pfizer vaccines ages 6 months to 4 years old

Children aged 6mo to 4yo will receive 3mcg of Pfizer vaccine

Children will receive 3 doses of vaccine. The interval between the first and second dose is 3 weeks apart and between the second and third dose is 8 weeks apart

For most children under 3yo, the injection site is the side of the thigh

For most children over 3yo, the injection site is the side of the arm

Pediatric vaccines will come in separate vials with all supplies needed, including smaller needles for children

## Moderna vaccine for ages 6 months to 5 years old

Children aged 6mo to 5yo will receive 25mcg of Moderna vaccine.

Children will receive 2 doses of vaccine, 4 weeks apart from each other.

For most children under 3yo, the injection site is the side of the thigh

For most children over 3yo, the injection site is the side of the arm

Pediatric vaccines will come in separate vials with all supplies needed, including smaller needles for children

# Vaccines are Effective

- Results show the benefits of getting children vaccinated outweigh the risks of possible side effects
- Vaccine is effective for preventing illness in children
  - Pfizer 80% effective for preventing illness in children
  - Moderna 51% (ages 6 months-2 years old) and 37% (ages 2-6 years old) effective for preventing illness in children
- No cases of severe COVID in clinical trials
- Similar level of protection for children as adults



# Vaccines are Safe

- 🔗 No new or unexpected side effects seen compared to vaccinations in other age groups
- 🔗 Most side effects are relatively minor
  - Most common were sore arm, tiredness, and headache
- 🔗 Severe allergic reactions are rare
- 🔗 The vaccines CANNOT cause COVID-19 since there is no live virus in any of the vaccines

## Common Side Effects

- Injection site pain
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Fever or chills
- Nausea
- Muscle aches

# Myocarditis & Pericarditis

## What is myocarditis and pericarditis?

- ↳ Rare condition causing inflammation of the heart muscle and surrounding tissue

## Very rare side effect of vaccination

- ↳ Found in some males ages 12-15yo after vaccine
- ↳ Full recovery is typical with simple treatment
- ↳ Much lower in 5-11 than 12-15 year old males

**Risk to heart more severe from COVID-19 infection rather than from vaccination**

## Talk to your doctor if you have concerns

- ↳ All medicines and vaccines carry some risk and side effects
- ↳ Doctors can help patients weigh risks

# Who shouldn't get vaccinated

## Reasons for your child not to get vaccinated:

- ❏ Not old enough to get vaccinated
- ❏ Have a severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis to the first dose of the vaccine
- ❏ You consult with your child's doctor and they tell you that your child has a medical reason to not get the vaccine

## Talk to your child's doctor before getting your vaccine if your child:

- ❏ Takes medications that suppress the immune system
- ❏ Has a history of severe allergic reaction anaphylaxis to another vaccine or injectable medication



# **Benefits of Vaccinating Your Child**

## Getting vaccinated protects the entire household



Vaccination of eligible children and household members will further reduce cases among babies and in the community

## Benefits of Full Vaccination

- Getting the vaccine is FREE
- Build your child's protection against COVID-19
  - Less chance of isolating at home and missing childcare and school
- Reduce COVID-19 cases, severe infection, hospitalization and deaths
- Stop the spread of COVID-19
- Start doing more of activities prior to pandemic:
  - **Stay in childcare and school!**
  - Travel for the holidays as safely as possible
  - Resume social activities safely – visiting grandparents, sleepovers, parties, competitions, and more
  - And more.....

## Preparing your child for vaccination

- 🔗 Pack your child's favorite toy, book, or blanket to comfort them during vaccinations.
- 🔗 Be honest with your child. Explain that shots can pinch or sting, but that it won't hurt for long.
- 🔗 Engage other family members, especially older siblings, to support your child.
- 🔗 **Avoid** telling scary stories or making threats about shots.
- 🔗 **Bring quiet activities to entertain your child for the required 15 minute observation period – coloring books, music, movies, etc**
- 🔗 Remind your child that vaccines can keep them healthy – they are a good thing!

## Start with your child's doctor

- Ask about COVID-19 vaccines & other recommended vaccines & physical exams for your child

For healthy development, it's important for children to get regular physicals AND vaccinations!

Vaccines/Physicals are required for entry to childcare and in-person school (and some sports)

Save time and get your COVID vaccine AND routine vaccinations at the same appointment!

You can discuss concerns you may have about your child's health with their primary care doctor

**TIP: Schedule your child's appointment NOW, before the back-to-school rush!**





# Thank you.

Questions?