



Loudoun County, Virginia

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NEWS RELEASE

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Loudoun County to Begin Vaccinating Children Ages 5 to 11 Against COVID-19 Nov. 5; Appointments may be Scheduled Now

The Loudoun County Health Department is now offering appointments for children ages 5 to 11 to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine following approval by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). The VDH approval for use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for individuals in this age group comes after a [recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and authorization by the [Food and Drug Administration](#).

“Beginning to vaccinate children under the age of 12 is an important milestone in the pandemic as this will help to further slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community, improve the safety of the school environment and ultimately bring an end to the pandemic,” said Loudoun County Health Department Director Dr. David Goodfriend. “The vaccine is proven safe and effective in this age group, so I encourage parents to get their kids vaccinated before the upcoming holidays when family and friends often gather indoors, which increases the risk of exposure to and spread of the virus.”

How to Make an Appointment

Beginning Thursday, November 4, those interested in having their children vaccinated at the county’s Dulles Town Center site can schedule appointments [online through the county’s website](#). The first available appointments for the 5- to-11 age group will be on Friday, November 5, and Saturday, November 6, between 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. When scheduling an appointment for a 5- to-11-year-old, select the clinic named: “**Ages 5-11 COVID-19 Vaccinations – Loudoun.**” Appointments made in the 12-and-up clinic will not be honored for the younger age group.

Anyone who needs assistance making an appointment, such as those who do not have access to the internet, should call the COVID-19 Information Line at 703-737-8300 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Individuals under 18 who have an appointment for a vaccination must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Vaccine Supply for Children Ages 5 to 11

The Pfizer vaccine that will be used for 5- to-11-year-olds has the same active ingredient as that given to millions of Americans over the past year, but will be provided in a different formulation due to its lower dosage. Loudoun County health officials expect that demand for the COVID-19 vaccine for ages 5 to 11 will initially outpace supply and will limit the number of appointments available in the early days of the vaccination effort. As vaccine supplies increase through the month of November, more appointments will open up. Parents and guardians are urged to be patient and are encouraged to continue looking for an appointment with any COVID-19

vaccine provider until they get one. Loudoun County encourages parents and guardians to keep checking back in the [appointment system](#) as vaccine supplies increase.

Other Vaccination Opportunities

Other vaccine providers in Loudoun County, such as medical offices and retail pharmacies, are also expected to be offering the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to children ages 5 to 11. These providers operate independently of Loudoun County. Parents and guardians may check with their pediatrician's office or visit [vaccines.gov](#) to find other COVID-19 vaccine providers in our community.

Importance of Vaccinating Children

Public health officials recommend getting children vaccinated as soon as possible once they become eligible to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. The 5- to 11-year-old age group currently comprises the bulk of COVID-19 cases in Loudoun County children.

Vaccinating children and getting boosters in recommended groups is particularly important as we enter the cold weather season when people tend to gather indoors more, and as we approach the holiday season, which also often includes indoor gatherings.

The COVID-19 vaccine is [proven safe and effective](#), including in children ages 5 to 11. Learn more about protecting yourself, your family and the community during holiday celebrations by visiting the [CDC's website](#).

Who Can Get a Vaccine Now

In addition to offering Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to children ages 5 to 11, Loudoun County continues to offer vaccination appointments to:

- Residents who are 12 and older and have not yet received their first and/or second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Residents who are [moderately and severely immunocompromised individuals](#) and are recommended by the CDC for a third dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine.
- Residents who are [eligible for a booster dose of the Johnson & Johnson, Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines](#).

As a reminder, vaccinations are free of charge for everyone regardless of immigration or health insurance status. More information about COVID-19 vaccines is online at [loudoun.gov/COVID19vaccine](#).

Stay Informed

For additional information about COVID-19 and to sign up for COVID-19 text and email updates from Loudoun County, visit [loudoun.gov/coronavirus](#).

Anyone with questions about COVID-19 vaccine may call the Health Department's information line at 703-737-8300 or send an email to health@loudoun.gov.

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