



WELLCOME MD



COVID Updates

Boosters for Everyone

To help provide increased protection against COVID-19 infection, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in collaboration with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) amended the Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) for both the Pfizer and Moderna Covid-19 vaccines, authorizing use of a single booster for all individuals [over the age of 18](#). Anyone initially vaccinated with the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine can get a booster as soon as six months after their second dose. Anyone who received a Johnson & Johnson vaccine may get a booster at least two months after the single-dose shot. Additionally, the CDC strongly encourages older patients and individuals with underlying medical conditions to get boosted before the Holidays.

Vaccines for Kids

At the end of October, the [FDA authorized](#) emergency use of the Pfizer vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 to include children 5 - 11 years of age. Teenagers ages 12 - 18, receive the same dosage of Pfizer vaccine as adults. The vaccine for children ages 5 - 11 has the same active ingredients as the vaccine given to adults,

but the dose is one-third of the standard adult dose. Smaller needles are also used to administer the dose to children ages 5 - 11.

All doses of the Pfizer vaccine, including children, teenagers and adults, need a second shot three weeks after the initial dose.

COVID-19 vaccines must meet the same [safety standards](#) as any other vaccine. "The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children has been tested and reviewed the same as any other inoculation we give to our children. A clinical trial of 2,250 volunteers found the vaccine to be 90.7% effective at preventing children age 5 - 11 from developing symptoms from COVID-19 infection. This study and others were reviewed before the recommendation given by the FDA and CDC last month," says WellcomeMD's Dr. Neal Carl. All children in the study received two doses, spaced three weeks apart, that were one-third of the standard dose given to adults and adolescents.

COVID Resurgence?

The [7-day average](#) of new cases of COVID-19 had been on the decline since September but is now starting to tick upward in a few states across the U.S. The CDC updated its [guidelines for holiday](#) gatherings. "I know everyone is excited to see family this holiday season, but take precautions, we aren't out of the woods yet. Consider getting tested before you visit family or get your booster shot if you can," Dr. Carl advises.

WellcomeMD is well stocked in PCR and rapid tests for any member who feels they may have been exposed to COVID-19. If you feel you may have been exposed, please contact our office immediately. Your doctor can help determine the best testing and treatment options for you, based on your health history.

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