



## RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL VACCINATION EVENTS FOR CHILDREN AGE 5 TO 11

November 3, 2021

To Rhode Island Students and Families/Guardians:

We are pleased to share that children age 5 to 11 are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine is effective and safe. Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to hundreds of millions of people worldwide. The vaccine for younger children was reviewed extensively before federal health officials authorized its use. It was determined to be 90.7% effective against COVID-19 disease in children age 5 to 11, and no significant safety issues were identified.

### **Why vaccination for children is important**

Since the start of school this year, there have been many more cases of COVID-19 among Rhode Island students and staff than there were at the same time last year. This is because the Delta variant of COVID-19 is more contagious, and all schools are now at 100% in-person learning. Since the beginning of September, 92% of the students in Rhode Island's Pre K-12 schools who tested positive for COVID-19 were not vaccinated. Thankfully, most of our children have not gotten very sick. But they have missed school, missed playing sports and other activities, and may have spread COVID-19 to other people in the family.

### **How to get your child vaccinated**

- **School clinics** – The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) is working with local schools, cities, and towns to run COVID-19 vaccination clinics for children age 5 to 11. Clinics will start the week of November 8, and there will be at least two clinics in every city and town (for first and second doses). All clinics will be open to all children 5 to 11 years old (not just the children who attend the host school), so you can pick which date and place works best. Parents or guardians can complete a consent form when you register online. A parent or guardian must be with the child at the vaccination clinic. Register online before you go to the clinic and make an appointment. If you make an appointment, it helps to prevent long waits and you know a dose is reserved for your child. Make an appointment for your child at one of the local city or town clinics at [covid.ri.gov/5to11vaccine](https://covid.ri.gov/5to11vaccine).
- **Sockanosset State-run site** - Children age 5 to 11 may also get vaccinated at the Sockanosset State-run site. Schedule an appointment at the State-run site at: [www.vaccinateri.org](https://www.vaccinateri.org). If you need help to make an appointment, call 844-930-1779.
- **Pharmacies** – Vaccine for children age 5 to 11 will be available at many CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, and Stop and Shop sites. Visit the websites of these pharmacies for more information.

- The offices of some primary care providers - Many pediatrician and family medicine practices are enrolled as providers of COVID-19 vaccine. Contact your child's healthcare provider to learn if they are vaccinating younger children.
- Other vaccination sites – Information about other vaccination sites will be posted on [C19vaccineRI.org](http://C19vaccineRI.org).

### **More information about COVID-19 vaccine for children 5 to 11**

Your child should get two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The second dose will be at least three weeks after the first dose. It's important to get vaccinated now so your child can be protected before the holidays and before we might see a seasonal increase in cases of COVID-19.

### **Additional questions?**

RIDOH will host two Virtual Town Hall events on November 8 with community pediatricians to help answer parents' questions about COVID-19 vaccine. The [English session](#) will start at 6 p.m. The [Spanish session](#) will start at 7 p.m. You can learn more about the vaccine at [covid.ri.gov/5to11vaccinefaq](http://covid.ri.gov/5to11vaccinefaq). Your child's healthcare provider or school nurse teacher are great resources if you have additional questions.

We know that the vaccine works and will help to end this pandemic. We want all Rhode Island students who are eligible to get vaccinated. We want them to stay healthy, be ready to learn *in school*, and have fun playing sports or doing other activities they enjoy.

We also want to remind parents and guardians, if you have not gotten your COVID-19 vaccine, it's important for you to get vaccinated too. Make sure everyone in your family, age 5 or older is vaccinated. When you get vaccinated, you protect yourself, your family, and your community.



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