



TULARE COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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Public Health Advisory: Children 5-11 Years Old Now Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccination

Vaccination is very effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines are now available for children ages 5-11 years old and vaccination is recommended for everyone ages 5 years and older. As hospitals in Tulare County continue to be overwhelmed with COVID-19 hospitalizations, protecting more people in our community through vaccination is essential.

Vaccinating all eligible persons in the household is the best way to prevent spread of COVID-19 and help protect the health and well-being of all family members. So far, more than 140,000 children in the United States have lost a parent or primary caregiver to COVID-19 and over 65,000 children have been hospitalized with COVID-19 complications. “Long haul” COVID syndrome with lasting symptoms has also been found in both children and adults.

COVID-19 vaccination is still recommended even if you have already had the infection because it is possible to get infected with COVID-19 more than once. Data continues to suggest that the vaccines create stronger, more reliable protection than infection alone and boost protection in people who have had COVID-19 infection before. Persons who have not received the vaccine are 5 times more likely to get infected with COVID-19 and more than 10 times more likely to be hospitalized or die from COVID-19 than persons who did receive the vaccine. It is important to complete the vaccine series to be protected.

Preventing infection in the home also reduces likelihood of missed days from work and school due to COVID-19. Persons who are fully vaccinated, including children, are not required to quarantine at home after getting exposed to COVID-19 as long as they have no symptoms. Fully vaccinated persons should continue to wear a mask when indoors in public and get tested when needed: 5 days after a known exposure and/or if they have any symptoms of COVID-19.

Currently, only the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is approved for children 5-17 years old. COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time as other vaccines, including routine school shots and the flu vaccine. Vaccines are available at doctor’s offices, local pharmacies, CVS, and Rite-Aid. Visit myturn.ca.gov or call 1-833-422-5255 for appointments and clinic locations.