

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
FACT SHEET: AVAILABILITY OF COVID-19 VACCINE FOR UNDER 5 IN CALIFORNIA
June 17, 2022

How many Californians under 5 (infants and toddlers) will become eligible for the vaccine and how do they schedule an appointment?

- Approximately 2.2 million
- Families should contact their child's medical provider (doctor, community clinic, etc.) or visit myturn.ca.gov.

How many vaccines will California receive?

- Like other COVID-19 vaccines, supplies are allocated by the Federal government.
- California expects to receive nearly 400,000 doses after June 20, with additional doses becoming available in subsequent weeks.

How has CDPH prepared for Californians under 5 to receive the vaccine?

- CDPH has worked diligently over the past year to enroll as many pediatric providers as possible into the state COVID-19 vaccination program, including incentives through the [KidsVaxGrant](#) Program.
- Currently, there are over 8,500 healthcare provider sites enrolled in the state's COVID-19 Vaccination Program that can administer vaccines to all ages.
- About 60% of providers enrolled in the [CA Vaccine for Children](#) (VFC) program are offering COVID-19 vaccines.
 - These providers serve about 85% of children in CA eligible for VFC (Medi-Cal eligible, un- or underinsured, or American Indian)
 - VFC providers that have been offering COVID-19 vaccine more often are larger practice sites, such as health care systems, multispecialty practices or other sites with many providers.
 - Some smaller practices are also offering COVID-19 vaccine, but more are needed and are being included in recruitment efforts.

Where will vaccine be available, and how will this differ from other ages?

- Federal retail pharmacies will have a smaller role due to existing Federal restrictions.
 - Retail pharmacies are prohibited from administering vaccines to children 3 years and younger.
 - Federal retail pharmacies in California currently have ordered 89,000 doses of the Infant/Toddler COVID-19 vaccine.
- With fewer pharmacies providing Covid-19 vaccination services to younger children and the limited number of mass vaccination clinics occurring across the state, families will be more reliant upon their child's doctor or medical provider to carry and offer the COVID-19 vaccine.

- COVID-19 vaccines by Moderna and Pfizer are recommended for young children.
 - Though the two vaccines have similarities and differences between each other, in clinical trials both vaccines were safe and gave young children the same levels of immunity (antibodies) that have protected older children and adults against hospitalization and death from COVID-19.
 - Families are encouraged to have children promptly receive either of these vaccines.
 - Check with your child's health care provider if you have questions about the vaccines.
- Visits for COVID-19 vaccine are a good time to catch up with other routine vaccines that have been delayed during the pandemic.

How is CDPH addressing equity gaps?

- To support better access to vaccine for all families, and especially those in at-risk communities, CDPH is:
 - Sponsoring vaccination clinics in early childcare and education sites.
 - Continuing to sponsor vaccination clinics in partnership with trusted community organizations and partners.
- To boost awareness, CDPH will continue its outreach, education and appointment assistance efforts to reach families through partnerships with more than 200 ethnic media outlets, trusted organizations and partnerships with statewide organizations like the Department of Social Services and First 5 Associations.