

Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union and White Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19 VACCINES NOW AVAILABLE TO CHILDREN SIX MONTHS OF AGE AND OLDER

GAINESVILLE – COVID-19 vaccines are now authorized for everyone six months of age and older. Children will get a smaller dose of the vaccine than teens and adults based on their age on the day of vaccination. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective at preventing severe illness from COVID-19 and limiting the spread of the virus that causes it.

District 2 Public Health Medical Director, Zachary Taylor, MD., says, "Parents should discuss with their pediatrician or family doctor about vaccinating their child with the COVID-19 vaccine."

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is now available at all District 2 health departments for children six months and older. The Moderna vaccine will be arriving soon. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is not authorized for children.

The CDC recommends COVID-19 primary series vaccines for everyone who is six months and older, and COVID-19 boosters for everyone five years and older, if eligible. You are protected best from COVID-19 when you stay up to date with the recommended vaccines. Vaccine recommendations vary depending on your age, type of vaccine received, and timing of your last dose.

Children five to eleven years old should get two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine three to eight weeks apart, and should receive their booster dose five months after their primary series has been completed.

Children six months to four years old should receive three doses total. Once a child is vaccinated with their first dose, they should receive their second dose three to eight weeks later; however, the interval between the second dose and the third dose is eight weeks.

District 2 public health departments offer walk-in appointments for COVID-19 vaccines. Visit <u>phdistrict2.org</u> to find a health department location in your county.

To learn more about COVID-19 vaccines for adults and children go to <u>cdc.gov/coronavirus</u>.

COVID-19 Vaccine Dosage Is Based on Age on the Day of Vaccination, Not on Size or Weight

Children get a smaller dose of COVID-19 vaccine than teens and adults that is the right amount for their age group.

COVID-19 primary series vaccination for children and teens

Child's Age	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	J&J/Janssen
6 months – 4 years old	3-dose primary series	2-dose primary series	Not authorized
5 – 17 years old	2-dose primary series	2-dose primary series	Not authorized

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines and dosage for children and teens, visit:

- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Overview and Safety
- Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Overview and Safety

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