

PRESS RELEASE



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Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road, Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVID-19 vaccine available for kids under 5 years

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, with guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Food and Drug Administration, will be offering COVID-19 vaccines to children under 5 years old (ages 6 months to 4 years old).

COVID-19 booster shots are also available to **children aged 5-11** at least five months after their primary series. Eligible individuals can obtain a COVID-19 primary or booster shot by calling the CHCC Immunization Clinic at (670) 236-8745.

COVID-19 vaccines are also available at the following: Medical Associates of the Pacific, Kagman Isla Community Health, Marianas Medical Center, as well as Tinian Health Center, Rota Health Center, Family Care Clinic, Children's Clinic, and Women's Clinic. Contact each clinic for more information.

For more information on receiving a booster shot, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>.

Young children are at risk for contracting COVID-19, and some can get seriously ill. Even if a child does not get severely ill, they could face long-term health consequences or pass the virus to others. The best way to protect children against COVID-19—in daycare, school, sports, and with their friends—is by getting them vaccinated.

The COVID-19 vaccines for young children are safe and effective. Like other pediatric vaccines, these vaccines were thoroughly tested and then reviewed by the FDA and CDC before these agencies authorized and recommended them for wide use. The vaccines will be available at no cost and regardless of citizenship or insurance status.

According to the CDC, emerging evidence indicates that people can get added protection by getting vaccinated after having been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. Even if a child has had COVID-19, they should still get vaccinated. For children who have been infected with COVID-19, their next dose can be delayed 3 months from when symptoms started or, if they did not have symptoms, when they received a positive test. This possible delay can happen with a primary dose or a booster dose.

The COVID-19 vaccines approved and authorized in the U.S. continue to protect people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and even dying—especially people who have received a booster.

Adverse reactions reported after getting booster shots were similar to the primary series/shot. Fatigue and pain at the injection site were the most commonly reported side effects, and overall, most side effects were mild to moderate. However, as with the 2-shot primary series, serious side effects are rare but may occur.

For more information about CHCC programs, follow @cnmichcc on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter; visit <https://www.chcc.health>; or call (670) 234-8950.

This press release may be found online at <https://www.chcc.health/pressrelease.php>.

Who Can Get a COVID-19 Vaccine?

Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html> for more information.

Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	Johnson & Johnson's Janssen*
<p>Primary Series <i>5 Years and Older:</i> 2 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech in the primary series, given 3–8 weeks apart. People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised (have a weakened immune system) should get a 3rd dose at least 4 weeks after their 2nd dose in the primary series.</p> <p><i>6 months through 4 years:</i> 3 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech in the primary series. The 1st and 2nd doses are separated by 3 to 8 weeks and the 2nd and 3rd doses are separated by at least 8 weeks. For people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised (have a weakened immune system), the 1st and 2nd doses are separated by 3 weeks, and the 2nd and 3rd doses are separated by at least 8 weeks.</p>	<p>Primary Series <i>18 years and older:</i> 2 doses of Moderna in the primary series, given 4–8 weeks apart. People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised (have a weakened immune system) should get a 3rd dose at least 4 weeks after their 2nd dose in the primary series.</p> <p><i>6 months through 5 years:</i> 2 doses of Moderna in the primary series, given 4 – 8 weeks apart. For people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised (have a weakened immune system), the 1st and 2nd doses are separated by 4 weeks, and the 2nd and 3rd doses are separated by at least 4 weeks.</p>	<p>Primary Series <i>Recommended in some situations for people 18 years and older:</i> 1 dose of J&J/Janssen.</p> <p>People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised (have a weakened immune system) should get a 2nd dose of Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna at least 4 weeks after their 1st dose in the primary series.</p>
<p>Booster <i>5 years and older:</i> People who received a Pfizer-BioNTech primary series should get a booster. Only some people can get a 2nd booster dose.</p> <p><i>6 months through 4 years:</i> Currently a booster dose is not authorized for children in this age group.</p>	<p>Booster <i>18 years and older:</i> People who received a Moderna primary series should get a booster. Only some people can get a 2nd booster dose. Use CDC's COVID-19 booster tool to learn if and when you can get boosters to stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines.</p> <p><i>6 months through 5 years:</i> Currently a booster dose is not authorized for children in this age group who received a Moderna primary series.</p>	<p>Booster People who received a J&J/Janssen primary series should get a booster. Only some people can get a 2nd booster dose.</p>

* In most situations, Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are preferred over Johnson & Johnson's Janssen (J&J/Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine. J&J/Janssen [should only be considered in some cases](#). J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine cannot be used as a 2nd booster dose.