

COVID-19 Vaccine becomes available to young children

Written by gallupsun

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New Mexico announces children 5-11 now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine

Staff Reports

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Department of Health and Public Education announced Nov. 3 that children ages 5 to 11 are now eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. This follows federal approvals by both the Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A dose of Pfizer for children 5-11 contains one-third the amount of the active ingredient compared to the adult dose. Children would receive a second dose 21 days or more after their first shot. Available data shows that all COVID-19 vaccines approved or authorized in the U.S. continue to be highly effective in reducing risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, including against the current Delta variant.

"Our children continue to be vulnerable without a vaccination," DOH Deputy Secretary Dr. Laura Parajon said. "We encourage parents to schedule appointments with their medical provider or via vaccineNM.org - so kids can go back to being kids."

"This is great news for New Mexico public schools, where the spread of COVID-19 continues to be a real concern," Public Education Secretary (Designate) Kurt Steinhaus said. "This means our elementary school students can now be protected from the dangers of COVID-19, just as their older siblings, parents, grandparents and teachers are already."

"We welcome these safe vaccines and urge parents to get them into children's arms as quickly as possible to keep young children healthy and to avoid further community spread."

New Mexicans can schedule their primary and booster shots with their primary care physicians. They can also do so through the statewide vaccine COVID-19 vaccine registration system vaccineNM.org

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Parents can visit vaccinenm.org/kids to add dependents to their existing vaccine scheduling profile.

New Mexicans without access to the internet can call 1-855-600-3453 for scheduling assistance.

