

## PFT COVID Update 6-15-22: Summer Spikes - Under 5 Approval - Moderna Omicron Vax -Links

# CORONAVIRUS



## Updates

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Dear Dan

### **Summer COVID Spikes Anticipated Nationwide.**

#### **The Bad News and the Good News.**

Omicron variants are currently fighting among themselves for dominance — and in the process, these variants have evolved strains that are better at evading immunity granted by vaccines, boosters and natural infection. That's the bad news ... (*more cases, more places*) spelled out nicely in a [CNN article from earlier this month](#).

The good news with these variants continues to be that they appear to be less virulent — meaning the increase in cases and communicability hasn't corresponded equally with an increase in fatalities.

One result that hasn't changed, however, is that Americans who have some protection against these strains — through previous COVID infection or scheduled vaccinations — tend to suffer far less severe complications overall.

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### **Under Age 5 Vaccine Formal Approval Decision from FDA Due Today.**

Pfizer awaits a final decision from the FDA today on their vaccination formulation for children under age 5. Based on their research, the modified 3-stage dose looks promising in this youngest segment. And while it is true this group only accounts for 3% of all cases (*on average*), their rates of hospitalization and death are higher than those rates for older children (*ages 5 - 17*).

[Read the PBS article here.](#)

That it has taken some time to reach this point is a good sign — it means that significant due diligence and scientific rigor has been put into this rollout. The decision now falls to parents and caregivers – who must balance caution and concern with the peace of mind that could come with protecting our youngest with an approved vaccine.

Because no matter what — Coronavirus isn't going anywhere given the consistent emergence of variants that evolve to evade natural and vaccinated immunity.

**Our advice?** Keep reading trusted resources (*links, below*) to make informed decisions.

**\*\* THIS JUST IN: FDA approval given \*\***

Final go-ahead comes from the CDC, likely within a week or so.

## **Moderna Touting Specific Vaccine Against Omicron Variants.**

While the list of additional variants that has evolved from the original, highly-contagious Omicron variant is starting to read like alphabet soup, vaccine maker Moderna appears to be leading the charge in developing a next-generation vaccine designed to specifically protect against Omicron variants, in addition to its original COVID-19 formula.

Vaccine approval is only one step, however... as there are additional questions to answer moving forward. Do new formulations still protect against COVID-19's worst outcomes? Should Omicron be the only variant targeted, or do scientists need to try and predict what might come next (*similar to the annual influenza vaccine.*).

[Read the full article here, also from PBS.](#)

## **Information Links That Bear Repeating:**

Below please find additional links providing helpful information you can bookmark and count on as the COVID-19 situation changes and evolves.

[AFT/AFTPA Coronavirus Resources & Updates for Members](#)

[Find a Vaccine Provider Near You](#)

[AFT/PFT Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#)

-- A Negotiated, Free Benefit to Members

[Click for EAP Information Flyer \(includes login info\)](#)

[Click for Life Skills Solutions Website \(login upper right\)](#)

[AFT Share My Lesson Stress Management Resources \(searchable\)](#)

[Download the PA COVID-Alert Tracking App](#)

[National Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) Coronavirus Resources](#)

[CDC Data Tracking Page](#)

[CDC Vaccine Information Landing Page](#)

[PPS Coronavirus Resources and Links](#)

[PA Department of Health Coronavirus Resources](#)

[PA-Specific Resources from Senator Casey](#)

[Student Debt Relief Resources](#)

[Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\) Rumor Control  
Coronavirus Testing Locations \(view interactive map mid page\)](#)



### Coronavirus Self-Checker

A guide to help you make decisions and seek appropriate medical care

**\*\* PFT Coronavirus Updates Released Periodically As Needed \*\***

Missed an update or message? [View our archive of COVID-19 Updates here](#).

**Please keep in touch—keep sharing your ideas, your questions and your concerns.**

**In solidarity—**

**Dan Evans**

**PFT Communications Director**

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