

PFT COVID Update 6-29-22: Finding Kids Vaccines - Inevitable Spread - New Variants .. Again - Links

CORONA VIRUS

Updates

Where To Find Vaccines For Kids.

Now that children under age 5 are eligible for Covid vaccination, the next step, if you so choose, is to find a pharmacy or provider. However, as you'll see in this *New York TIMES* newsletter excerpt, you may not be returning to the place you received your vaccine.

".... You may not be able to get your child vaccinated at the same pharmacy where you rolled up your sleeve. That's because [age requirements vary among the larger pharmacy chains](#).

A majority of big pharmacy chains are giving Covid vaccines starting at age 3, but some are not. Publix and Kroger, for example, are offering shots starting at age 5.

Here are the policies for some major pharmacy chains:

- [Costco](#): 3 years and older
- [CVS](#): 18 months and older at MinuteClinic locations, 5 years and older at others
- [Harris Teeter](#): 5 years and older
- [H-E-B](#): 3 and older
- [Hy-Vee](#): 3 and older
- [Kroger](#): 5 and older
- [Rite Aid](#): 3 and older
- [Safeway](#): 5 and older
- [Stop & Shop](#): 3 and older
- [Walgreens](#): 3 and older
- [Wegmans](#): 3 and older
- [Walmart/Sam's Club](#): 3 and older

Even if your pharmacy of choice is not offering shots to your eligible child, the pharmacist there can point you in the right direction.

Some parents have also turned to social media groups and grassroots networks to find shots. **One option:** A group of volunteers called Vaccinate Under 5 created [a national database of pharmacies](#) and providers administering the vaccine to young children....”

[Click here to view this week’s full Coronavirus briefing from the Times.](#)

Variants Are Here To Stay As Long The Virus Continues To Spread.

And as long as we remain only about 66% vaccinated as a nation, the Coronavirus will continue to both mutate and spread.

Dr. Mohamed Yassin, Director of Infection Control at UPMC Mercy, takes a few moments in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* article linked below to explain why we can expect additional Covid-19 variants to emerge for the near and distant future.

The article is a sort of the state of the union for vaccine development and virus containment that contains interviews with several infectious disease physicians.

[Covid Variants Inevitable As Long As Virus Continues To Spread, Doctors Say.](#)

According to Dr. Yassin, chief among the reason the virus is “here to stay” remains the unwillingness of one-third of our population to get vaccinated in any degree.

“...the virus could take on a more seasonal appearance, but noted that the real future of the illness, hospitalization and death from Covid hinges on vaccinations.

“The rate of vaccination in the United States is really much lower than other Western countries,” he said. “That puts us in a more vulnerable position. We had, as the United States, so many cases, we had so much mortality. I wish we could convince more people to get their vaccine for their own sake and for the community’s sake, as well....”

Omicron Sub-Variants BA.4, BA.5 Make Up More Than 50% Of U.S. COVID Cases.

Reuters reported news from the CDC recently confirming that the newest Coronavirus sub-variants now account for over 50% of all US cases. In the PFT Covid update merely two weeks ago, we reported that these variants were simply two among many variants vying for dominance —accounting for less than one-third of all cases.

[Read the brief Reuters article here.](#) And remember, no matter where you are on your vaccination schedule, Covid-19 remains a persistent, deadly threat. Even in its currently reduced virulence, it is causing more death than automobile accidents in America. Stay vigilant and up-to-date on your booster schedules, please — and be mindful and protective of the potentially immuno-compromised people around you.

**** A Sobering Reminder:**

An average city block in [NYC contains 200 – 500 residents](#). *

The current seven-day average for Covid-related fatalities is 255. In other words, America is still losing **over an entire NY city block every two days**.

* *Answers.com*

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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