Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Update

November 3, 2021, Wednesday

We are extremely pleased to let you know that we are now making appointments for children ages 5 to 11 to receive the lower dose Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Mount Sinai faculty and staff members, trainees, and students whose household families include children in that age group can make appointments by clicking here. We will continue to open availability over the course of the day, so please keep checking back.

The vaccine was authorized this week for children in that age group by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Food and Drug Administration granted it emergency use authorization last Friday, October 29. Children will receive two doses of 10 micrograms each, a third of the adult dose, three weeks apart.

We are currently offering these vaccinations at The Mount Sinai Hospital, Mount Sinai Beth Israel, and Mount Sinai South Nassau, in locations or time slots reserved especially for children. While we are initially focusing on offering these vaccinations to high-risk and the most vulnerable pediatric patients, we want to be sure we are also taking care of our Mount Sinai family. You have given so much of yourselves throughout the pandemic, and by offering you appointments for your loved ones at home, we wanted to stand by you once again and say thank you. If appointment slots fill up, please be assured that we will add more as soon as vaccine supplies permit. You can also check the following web sites for more locations in New York State, New York City, New Jersey, or Connecticut. In addition, there is a large vaccine site at the Natural History Museum on the Upper West Side, if that is convenient for you.

Many of you will have questions about the vaccine for this age group. In a recent Mount Sinai Today article, Roberto Posada, MD, Professor of Pediatrics (Infectious Diseases), and Medical Education, at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, answered some of the most common questions about them. You can also read the FDA analysis of the
clinical trial data and the Pfizer fact sheet for patient and caregivers. And we encourage you to speak to your child’s pediatrician if you have questions.

This is a major and long-awaited step toward ending the pandemic and moving back toward a more normal life. COVID-19 has significantly affected our children in so many ways—even those who have not been sick have endured effects on their emotional and mental health, decreased physical activity, the loss of in-person learning and, for some, the loss of parents or other caregivers. But the data show this vaccine to have very high efficacy at reducing infections and producing strong antibody responses, so we are confident it will be effective at preventing hospitalizations and deaths in our most vulnerable young ones.

We encourage all of you who have children in your families to speak to your child’s health care provider, and schedule vaccination appointments as soon as you can.

Vicki R. LoPachin, MD, MBA
Senior Vice President
Chief Medical Officer
Mount Sinai Health System

Jane Maksoud, RN, MPA
Senior Vice President
Chief Human Resources Officer
Mount Sinai Health System