

Chile approves COVID shots for children aged 3 and up

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Chile on Thursday announced it would start vaccinating children aged three and up against the coronavirus, after successfully inoculating around 90 percent of its initial target population.

Children under the new rollout will receive the Chinese CoronaVac shot

already used for kids aged six to 15, the Public Health Institute said.

For 16 to 18-year-olds, Chile uses the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

The decision to use different shots was based on studies with CoronaVac in China that showed the Chinese vaccine had a higher rate of adverse reactions in [older children](#) than in younger ones, the institute said.

Chile joins Venezuela, Colombia and neighbor Argentina in vaccinating [children](#) from age three.

Nicaragua and Cuba are vaccinating toddlers as young as two.

Younger children will also start getting vaccinated in Europe, where the EU's drug regulator on Thursday cleared the Pfizer/BioNTech shot for use in children aged five to 11.

Chile, with a population of 19 million, has so far vaccinated some 13.8 million people, over 90 percent of its target group of adults aged 18 and older.

Some 1.75 million people have contracted the virus in Chile, and 38,000 have died, according to official figures.

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