

Pfizer, Moderna COVID shots work for kids under 5, FDA says

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Antibody levels suggest that three doses of Pfizer's pediatric COVID

vaccine help guard children under 5 against infection, a new analysis from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration shows.

It was [posted](#) online Sunday ahead of an FDA advisory panel meeting scheduled for Wednesday. On that day, the panel will weigh whether the FDA should authorize the use of both the Pfizer and Moderna COVID vaccines for young [children](#).

On Friday, the FDA [said](#) Moderna's vaccine was effective in preventing symptomatic illness in children younger than 6 with minimal side effects.

Both are mRNA vaccines, but the Pfizer vaccine would be given to young children in three doses at one-tenth the strength of an adult dose, while the Moderna vaccine would be given in two doses at one-quarter the strength of an adult dose, *The New York Times* reported.

If the FDA authorizes both vaccines for young children—as expected by [public health experts](#)—the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would also have to give the vaccines the [green light](#) before they become available to the approximately 18 million U.S. children who are younger than 5.

They're the only age group in the nation not currently eligible for COVID-19 shots.

The data submitted by Pfizer from its clinical trial suggest that three doses of the vaccine are more effective than two in [young children](#), and also show that there were minimal side effects, according to the FDA staff analysis. Still, the agency said there were so few cases of COVID among the 1,415 children who received three doses of the vaccine that it was hard to draw a definitive conclusion on the shots.

"Given the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic and likelihood of continued SARS-CoV-2 transmission during the ensuing months, deployment of the vaccine for use among children 6 months through 4 years of age will likely have a beneficial effect on COVID-19-associated morbidity and mortality in this age group," the FDA documents stated.

More information: Visit the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for more on [COVID vaccines for kids](#).

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