



Thank you for trusting your child's care to CareMount Pediatrics and Family Medicine. We pride ourselves in delivering immunizations according to recommendations approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

CareMount is pleased to be able to offer children 5 years of age and older access to COVID-19 vaccination using the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. This vaccine was previously authorized for people ages 12 and older at a higher dose, and trials now show a lower dose to be effective in children ages 5 through 11 years with no serious safety concerns. The use of lower dosing for vaccines in the younger population is not a new practice and is currently done with our annual flu vaccine. Due to the high level of safety and efficacy against COVID-19, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted emergency use authorization and approval was given by the ACIP. The vaccine will be given to children in two doses three weeks apart, the same as for adolescents and adults. The most common side effects in younger children were pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, chills, muscle pain, fever and joint pain, consistent with trials in older teens and adults. Because we do not know how long antibodies last after COVID-19 infection and reports of people having more severe second bouts of infection, the vaccine can be beneficial in boosting a child's existing immunity from prior infection.

The approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine allows for a younger population to be protected from COVID-19, bringing us closer to returning to a sense of normalcy and to ending the pandemic. We appreciate that COVID-19 disruptions have caused a significant amount of stress for you, your family, and children. Our youngest generations have shouldered heavy burdens over the past year and a half, and the vaccine is a hopeful sign that they will be able to begin to experience all the activities that are so important for their health and development. We welcome your questions and partnering with you to discuss how we can work together to maximize your child's health.

At this time pediatric vaccines are only available in CareMount's vaccine clinics through [online scheduling](#), and not in our pediatric offices.

Stay safe and be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Brodsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jill Brodsky, MD, MBA

Chair, CareMount Department of Pediatrics