

# FAQs about the Flu and the NEW COVID-19 Vaccine



## **Does Piedmont Pediatrics have the new updated 2023-24 COVID-19 vaccines in the office?**

Yes. We have received a supply of the Pfizer updated COVID-19 vaccine for children 6 months of age and older. Please carefully read below for more information....

### **My child is 5 years or older:**

ONE 2023-24 COVID-19 vaccine at least 8 weeks after the last dose of any previous COVID-19 vaccine. It does not matter if the previous vaccine was the original COVID-19 vaccine or a Bivalent booster, your child will get one 2023-24 vaccine.

### **My Child is 6 months – 4 years old:**

If your child has never received a COVID-19 vaccine, your child will receive three of the Pfizer 2023-24 vaccines: Dose 2 is at least 3 weeks after Dose 1, and Dose 3 is at least 8 weeks after Dose 2.

#### ***Previous COVID-19 doses for 6 months – 4 years old:***

- **If your child received only 1 previous dose of the Pfizer vaccine**, your child should receive Dose 2 with the Pfizer 2023-24 vaccine at least 3 weeks after the first dose, and then dose 3 at least 8 weeks after dose 2.
- **If your child received 2 previous doses of the Pfizer vaccine**, your child should receive dose 3 with the Pfizer 2023-24 vaccine at least 8 weeks after dose 2.
- **If your child received 3 or more doses of any previous Pfizer vaccine**, your child should receive ONE dose of the Pfizer 2023-24 vaccine at least 8 weeks after the last dose.

## **Can you mix COVID-19 vaccines brands between Pfizer and Moderna?**

For children 5 years of age and older, you can mix the two brands. For example, if your child previously received Moderna vaccines, your child could receive the Pfizer 2023-24 vaccine. For children under 5 years of age, you **CAN NOT** mix the two brands. If your child received the Pfizer vaccine previously, your child should continue with the Pfizer 2023-24 vaccine brand.

## **My child had COVID-19 infection. Does my child still need to get the updated vaccine?**

If your child recently had COVID-19 infection, you can consider delaying the vaccine by 3 months. However, you can consider giving your child the vaccine sooner based on your child's personal risk of severe disease or risk of disease on a family member/close contact.

**My child is less than 9 years of age. Does he need a booster dose or a second dose of the Flu vaccine this year?**

If your child is less than 9 years of age and has received at least TWO DOSES of Flu vaccine EVER before July 1, 2023, he only needs one dose of the 2023-24 Flu vaccine. The past doses do not need to have been received during the same or consecutive seasons.

If your child is less than 9 years of age and has only received ONE or NO doses of the Flu vaccine before July 1, 2023, he needs to receive TWO doses of the Flu vaccine, given at least 4 weeks apart.

**Do you have Flumist vaccines this year?**

Yes, we do have Flumist vaccine, the nasal form of the Flu vaccine. Flumist can only be given to children 2 years of age and older who do not have a history of asthma, wheezing within the past 12 months or other chronic medical problems. It is a live virus vaccine, so cannot be given if your child has received MMR or Varivax vaccine within the past 4 weeks. Your child must be able to sniff in the vaccine (and not blow it out), so make sure your child can “smell the flowers” if signing up for Flumist!

**My child is allergic to eggs. Can he still get the Flu vaccine?**

Yes, for most children with an egg allergy, it is okay to receive either form of the Flu vaccine. If your child’s allergic reaction to eggs was more than just hives, then please talk to your child’s doctor first, as they may want to schedule the flu vaccine to be given during regular office hours.

**One of my children is coming into the office for an appointment. May I bring my other children with me to get their flu and/or COVID-19 vaccine?**

Yes. If your other children are not ill, you can bring the others with you. **PLEASE** tell the front desk staff at check-in that getting flu and/or COVID vaccines for the patient’s siblings.

**My child is scheduled for a physical soon. Can my child get the Flu and/or COVID-19 vaccine then?**

Yes. We can administer the Flu and COVID-19 vaccines to your child during most check-ups and some sick visits. It is okay to give both Flu and COVID-19 vaccines on the same day.

**I signed up for one of the vaccine clinics, but then my child received their Flu vaccine during our office appointment. What do I need to do?**

If your child receives their flu vaccine in the office before your clinic time, please CANCEL your scheduled clinic time through your confirmation email so that the slot will be available for another patient to use.

**My child is a new patient at Piedmont Pediatrics but has not had his first appointment there yet. Can I still use the vaccine clinics?**

Unfortunately, all new patients must have had a visit with a doctor in the office before signing up for the flu vaccine clinics. If he is a new patient (even if a sibling has already been seen), please call and make an appointment with one of our doctors for a new patient visit during regular office hours. The doctor will review your child’s past medical history and then will give him the flu vaccine during that visit.

**My child can get the Flu vaccine at my pharmacy, but the staff there require an order from you for the vaccine. Will you call in flu vaccines to the pharmacy?**

No, in general, our doctors will not call-in flu vaccine orders to pharmacies for our patients, as we do

not know if the pharmacy staff is equipped and trained to care for any adverse reactions that may occur.

Please note that we use multi-dose vials for our injectable flu shots; these vials contain a trace amount of thimerosal. Our doctors do not believe that there is any harm in this and recommend it without hesitation.

Please remember that your child and family should not come to vaccine clinics if your child is currently in isolation for COVID-19.

Additional information about the Flu and COVID-19 vaccine, including the Vaccine Information Sheets, can be found on our website. We will also post any updates or changes on our website and social media.