# **Customizable Letter Template for COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children Ages 5 through 11 Years**

This sample letter template has information about COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 5 through 11 years and is designed for providers and partners to send to parents. It may be adapted and used in blogs, email communication, newsletters, etc. and can be customized with contact information. Highlighted content indicates information that may be tailored based on the vaccine provider’s needs.

AUTHOR: [insert office, clinic, vaccination event name]
TITLE: COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 5 to 11 years: What you need to know

COVID-19 vaccines are now available for [children ages 5 years and older](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/children-teens.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fvaccines%2Frecommendations%2Fadolescents.html). We are excited to offer vaccines at our [insert office, clinic, or other location] to help protect your child from COVID-19. As we move into the holiday season, getting vaccinated provides an important layer of protection for your child, your family, and others. Schedule [insert link to organizational scheduler] or call [insert phone number] to schedule your child’s COVID-19 vaccine today.

We know parents and caregivers have questions and want more information. Here's what you need to know.

**Children can still get very sick from COVID-19.**

Children can get infected with COVID-19, get very sick, suffer short- and long-term health complications, and spread COVID-19 to others.

**{INSERT QUOTE FROM SPOKESPERSON. Suggested quote: *“We’ve seen a range of symptoms among children, from very mild to serious illness, and in some cases even requiring hospitalization. That’s why we recommend the vaccine for children ages 5 years and older to protect them.”*} says [NAME and TITLE].**

**The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective for children ages 5 through 11 years.**

COVID-19 vaccination has been studied carefully in children. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the expert panel that works with them have reviewed the data from clinical trials. They all agree that vaccination for children ages 5 through 11 years is safe and effective. Here are some important points they used to make their recommendations:

* In clinical trials, vaccination was more than 90% effective in preventing COVID-19 in children ages 5 through 11 years.
* Unlike many medications, COVID-19 vaccine dosage does not vary by patient weight but by age on the day of vaccination. Children ages 5 through 11 years get an age-appropriate dose that is the right amount that was found to best protect children in clinical trials.
* The COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 through 11 years has the same active ingredients as the vaccine given to adults and adolescents. However, the vaccine that is given to adults and adolescents **cannot**be given to children.
* The safety of COVID-19 vaccine continues to be monitored. This includes the risk of [myocarditis and pericarditis](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/myocarditis.html) in children ages 5 through 11 years. [However, serious health events](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/safety-of-vaccines.html), including severe allergic reactions and myocarditis and pericarditis, after COVID-19 vaccination are rare.
* The benefits of COVID-19 vaccination among children outweigh the known and potential risks.
* Your child may get the COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines, including flu vaccine, at the same time.

**Some side effects are normal signs the vaccine is working.**

Your child may have some [side effects](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html). These are normal signs that their body is building protection. Some common side effects are

* Pain, redness, or swelling on the arm
* Tiredness
* Headache
* Muscle pain, chills, or fever
* Nausea

Some children will have no side effects and severe allergic reactions are rare. If your child [experiences a severe allergic reaction](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/allergic-reaction.html) after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, we are ready to respond. Most of the time, the only things your child might need after vaccination is rest, a non-aspirin pain reliever, and a cool washcloth at the injection site. Contact us if you need more information about treating potential side effects.

After vaccination, you can create or use your account to enter your child’s information in [v-safe](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html). You can use this easy-to-use smartphone-based tool to report to CDC how your child is feeling after vaccination and will even remind you when your child is due for their second dose.

**{INSERT OPTIONAL SECOND QUOTE FROM SPOKESPERSON. Suggested quote:** ***“Here at [NAME OF ORGANIZATION], we have been planning and preparing for this moment. We are ready to help get children protected against COVID-19.”} says [NAME and TITLE].***

Schedule [insert link to organizational scheduler or insert number to call] your child’s COVID-19 vaccine today.

Contact us with any questions at [insert contact info].