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Our 2021-2022 COVID Vaccine Clinic Information

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Expanded to Children 5 to 11 in Rhode Island. Governor Dan McKee and RIDOH are announcing that Rhode Island is expanding eligibility for COVID-19 vaccination to children 5 to 11 years of age. November 3, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended vaccination for children in this age group with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. COVID-19 vaccine is effective and safe. Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to hundreds of millions of people worldwide. The formulation of the vaccine for younger children was studied and reviewed extensively before federal health officials authorized its use. It was determined to be 90.7% effective against symptomatic COVID-19 disease in children 5 to 11, and no significant safety issues were identified.

In these horrible years of COVID, it is all the more important that all patients are immunized against the both COVID and flu. COVID and influenza symptoms can be similar, but the two shots are different. The Federal health authorities have recommended the COVID-19 vaccines for all persons over the age of 5 years old. The annual flu vaccine is **SAFE, EFFECTIVE, and NECESSARY for ALL.** All of our staff **ABSOLUTELY** recommend the COVID vaccines for all of their patients over 5 years old. Know that each of us, our families (children, too), and all of our staff have also received the COVID vaccine in order to protect ourselves...and your children.

We will be operating our **COVID immunization clinic** in our office on selected days and times. Of course, if your child is due for a flu vaccine they may receive flu shot at the same time. If your child is scheduled for a routine annual well-exam we may be able to add in these vaccines at the visit provided we have enough supply.

Due to the large number of patients to be given the vaccine, please understand that **NO other exams or problem discussions can be performed** during these special immunization ONLY visits. No political discussions here, please, These first clinics are set up ONLY for those parents who are all on board with the COVID vaccine. Such discussions take time away from other patients in our busy vaccine clinic. If your child is somehow ill at these times, please call to reschedule, as we will not give the shot to a child who is otherwise ill.

Please call our office at **943-7337** to schedule a slot in the Vaccine Clinic. Patients over the age of 5 through 11 may be given this vaccine by either of our **physicians**, our **nurse practitioner** Marissa, one of our **medical assistants**, or by our guest **pharmacist**, Matt Vitale, R. Ph (who happens to be Dr. Vitale's husband). Due to clinic numbers *we cannot give you a choice of immunization provider.*

For parents and other household members, it is essential that they receive their Own adult COVID and flu vaccines as well. These vaccines (for people 12 and above) will be available through your doctor, some public schools, and at local pharmacies such as CVS, and Walgreens, etc.

Please click here to access Pfizer parent information (7 pages) at: <https://www.fda.gov/media/153717/download>. **This vaccine information statement is also available in each of our exam rooms, and at anytime on line at our websites, DrVitale.com or Atlantic-Pediatrics.com.** Also access the Vaccine Consent Form at: <https://health.ri.gov/forms/consent/COVID19-Vaccination.pdf>. (3 pages to read, fill, print out, sign, and bring us page 1): **You must acknowledge that you have reviewed this information, and bring the printed and signed page 1 permission form to us before your child will be allowed to receive the COVID shot.**