Frequently Asked Questions for COVID-19 Vaccine for Children Under 5 Yrs Old
(updated 6/6/2023)

1.) Where can I get the vaccine?
New Hampshire parents and caregivers should check for vaccine availability at their pediatric office. If their child’s provider is not offering the vaccine, go to vaccines.nh.gov for a map of New Hampshire locations vaccinating children ages 6 months and older. Pharmacies offer COVID-19 vaccines for children 3 years or older. Go to vaccines.gov to find a pharmacy near you, or call 1-800-232-0233.

2.) How effective are COVID-19 vaccines?
The vaccines are effective at protecting against severe illness, hospitalization, and death. Children who are up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccines are less likely to have severe symptoms if they do get COVID-19. Receiving all recommended doses provides the best protection. The CDC continues to monitor vaccine effectiveness against emerging variants, but in clinical trials, vaccines were up to 80% effective in preventing COVID-19 infection in children.

3.) Are there side effects?
Much like any routine childhood vaccination, children may have soreness at the injection site or some mild side effects from the vaccine, such as irritability, drowsiness, or decreased appetite, which are normal signs that their body is building protection.

4.) Are the vaccines really safe for children?
Yes. After several phases of clinical trials and rigorous testing, the FDA and the CDC recommend the COVID-19 vaccine for very young children based on scientific evidence that shows the benefits of vaccination outweigh the risks.

5.) My child already had COVID-19. Does he/she need the vaccine?
Children who have had COVID-19 should still receive the COVID-19 vaccine series. Vaccination gives more protection against future infection than infection alone.

6.) Why should I vaccinate my baby or toddler if children have a lower risk of getting sick than adults?
There have been more than 3.6 million (3,611,052) cases of COVID-19 in children 4 and under in the United States. Compared to adults, children are at a lower risk of becoming severely ill with COVID-19. However, the CDC’s COVID Data Tracker shows there have been 771 deaths nationwide (as of 6/6/2023) among children in this age group. The CDC recommends vaccinating younger children to help curb community transmission and protect vulnerable people, such as infants, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems.

7.) Have children in NH died of COVID-19?
Yes. One child younger than 9-years-old from New Hampshire has died as a result of COVID-19.

8.) Where can I find more information?
Talk to your child’s pediatrician. You can also go to: Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC.