

**Paediatric Pfizer Immunisation** – 1/3 the dose of 12yrs and over; 2 doses given 8 weeks apart

***Why immunize children against Covid 19 virus?***

Infection with covid-19 virus in 5-11 year olds present generally with symptoms similar to a cold, sometimes more severe or with symptoms similar to viral gastroenteritis with vomiting, nausea and diarrhoea or a combination of both.

In the 5-11 year olds; 0.7% of patients require hospitalization

0.4% of patients require ICU

There is a higher risk of hospitalization for children with other health conditions/ co-morbidities including (but not limited to);

Obesity – this appears to be a major risk factor

Immunosuppression

Neurodevelopmental disorders – including Seizure disorders

Cardiac/Respiratory disorders

It is worth considering that children with Covid-19 infection can be a source of transmission to vulnerable family members. Following immunization, viral load carriage is reduced thus lowering the risk of transmission.

***Side Effects of the Pfizer Paediatric vaccine***

*CDC Report 31 December 2021 USA Safety Data*

8.7 million doses given over the past few months

4000 Adverse reactions (<0.04%) reported – 97% of these are mild

Common, mild: sore arm, fever, headache [In other jurisdictions, <6.5% have mild reactions]

Myocarditis; 11 cases only (1: 790 000 doses); all occurred after Dose 2 , mostly boys average age 9 years

There is NO effect on fertility from the Pfizer vaccine -either the adult or paediatric formulation.

**Reliable sources of good science based information:**

The Good GP Podcast January 7 2022: [www.racgp.org.au](http://www.racgp.org.au) press on “Listen now”; Covid-19 vaccination in children/RACGP Special Covid 19 vaccination podcast (21 minutes): Dr Angie Berkhout, Paediatric Infectious Diseases Physician

NCIRS; National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance

[www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au); Clinical guidance for Covid 19 vaccine providers