

Century-Airport Pediatrics Statement on Covid-19 & Vaccination for CHILDREN (rev: March 2026)

We will try to simplify a very complex discussion about Covid-19 & Vaccines, to assist parents with the decision process regarding the vaccination of children. **New information continuously becomes available, it will contribute to this discussion, and the decision making**, regarding this vaccination.

As with any decision regarding vaccines, there **might be individual medical or social circumstances that could alter the decision process**; these situations should be discussed with one of our Doctors or Nurse Practitioners. The percentage of hospitalized children due to covid infection is now less than the percentage of hospitalized children for other common seasonal viruses (RSV & Influenza).

The Covid-19 Vaccines were indeed developed and produced in record time; however, they do seem to have been **efficiently evaluated by scientific processes** before being released to the public. While there is less available data on younger children, **the efficacy (how well it works to prevent serious disease from Coronavirus) has been good**; and the side effects reported are usually mild; but **reports and data on side effects are still being analyzed**. There are properties to these vaccines that make immunity to the 'coronavirus disease variants' successful. The **mRNA technology** used for these vaccines is new for children; however, the available data at this time suggests no significant concerns for increased serious side effects.

Any potential side effects from the vaccine are likely to be similar, but less frequent than, the symptoms and outcomes from getting the illness or disease itself. Research is on-going when it comes to side effect profiles. While younger children do not seem to get as sick with coronavirus infection as does the adult population, there are enough reported cases of serious disease to warrant the consideration for the vaccine. There is also an illness/syndrome known as MIS-C, which is a post illness 'inflammatory syndrome' that can occur days to weeks after the illness. **There is obviously little known about long-term effects from the illness or from the vaccine; it seems likely that the illness would create a greater risk in this regard**.

The most frequently asked question about the vaccines relates to those who had covid-19 illness, or multiple exposures to the coronavirus. With the information available to us at this time, the immunity acquired from having had the disease should be considered equivalent to the immunity acquired from having the vaccine; and neither is perfect. It is true that **vaccination, after having had the illness, does "boost your immunity"**. It is **uncertain as to how much protection that boost provides** to avoid or re-acquire the illness, and/or in reducing the spread of the virus. Proof of some immunity (from disease or vaccine) **can be evaluated by blood test for circulating antibodies to covid-19**. No one knows exactly how long these antibodies will last, nor exactly how protective they are.

What does seem very clear, from review of many published and unpublished data around the world, is that **we should feel safe that disease acquired immunity, and vaccine acquired immunity, are both providing some decent protection from acquiring serious disease.** It would seem, from all the information available, that **a combination of having had the illness plus having one or more doses of the vaccine, likely provides the best type of immunity than either alone.** It is likely that any form of immunity will be less than fully effective after 9 to 12 months.

Booster doses of vaccine have been recommended, by the CDC, to all children 6-months-old and up. The emerging variants of the virus create a need for discussion about booster doses for all ages. Limited data are currently available to make a definitive judgement about an individual child's need for a booster vaccine. Each individual case can be discussed with one of our Doctors or Nurse Practitioners. There are reports that children ages 12 to 17 years-old have a higher incidence of **transient myocarditis** as a possible side effect from the vaccine. It is believed that this risk is less than that of transient myocarditis from getting covid infection. **This raises the question of risk vs. benefit when receiving multiple** doses of the **vaccine.** For further information, go to www.cdc.gov/vaccine. The Covid Vaccines can be given safely with other vaccines, including influenza ("flu") vaccine.

Our goal at Century-Airport Pediatrics has always been to attempt to educate parents as best as possible about all aspects of parenting their children. We excel at communicating to parents, with written information on all topics related to parenting. Keep in mind that, **as we attempt to educate parents, new information is always becoming available.** Our patient portal can be used to ask questions or make comments about these communications. There is a lot of confusing information available to parents; we will always try to clear up that confusion.

Our Website & Newsletter will also provide updates on all Vaccines that are available at our Office.