

8 weeks is a good interval for 5-11y olds' second vaccine dose



We recommend that children to have two doses of the vaccine 8 weeks apart because it offers:

1. **Protection from the first dose**

Severe COVID disease from omicron is very uncommon in school age children. In teenagers even one Pfizer vaccine dose was highly effective against delta (85% against hospitalisation, 75% against infection).

2. **Better protection with longer gap**

Longer dose intervals give a better immune response, which is likely to last longer. Other vaccine doses for children are usually 8 weeks apart for the same reasons.

3. **Reduced side effects**

The only potentially severe side effect of mRNA vaccines-myocarditis, was less common in teens/young adults when a second dose of mRNA vaccine was given later in Canada. With more than 8 million doses given to school aged children in the US, myocarditis in 5-11 year olds was much rarer than in teens, and usually after dose 2.

4. **Should any kids have shorter gap?**

A shorter gap may be needed in children most at risk of severe disease/hospitalisation, such as those with severe heart, lung or immunity problems, to get fullest protection most quickly if disease surges. Discuss with your healthcare professional.

Powell AA, Kirsebom F, Stowe J, et al. Adolescent vaccination with BNT162b2 (Comirnaty, Pfizer-BioNTech) vaccine and effectiveness of the first dose against COVID-19: national test-negative case-control study, England. medRxiv. January 2021:2021.12.10.21267408. doi:10.1101/2021.12.10.21267408

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