

Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccines

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Emory University School of Medicine

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MEDICINE



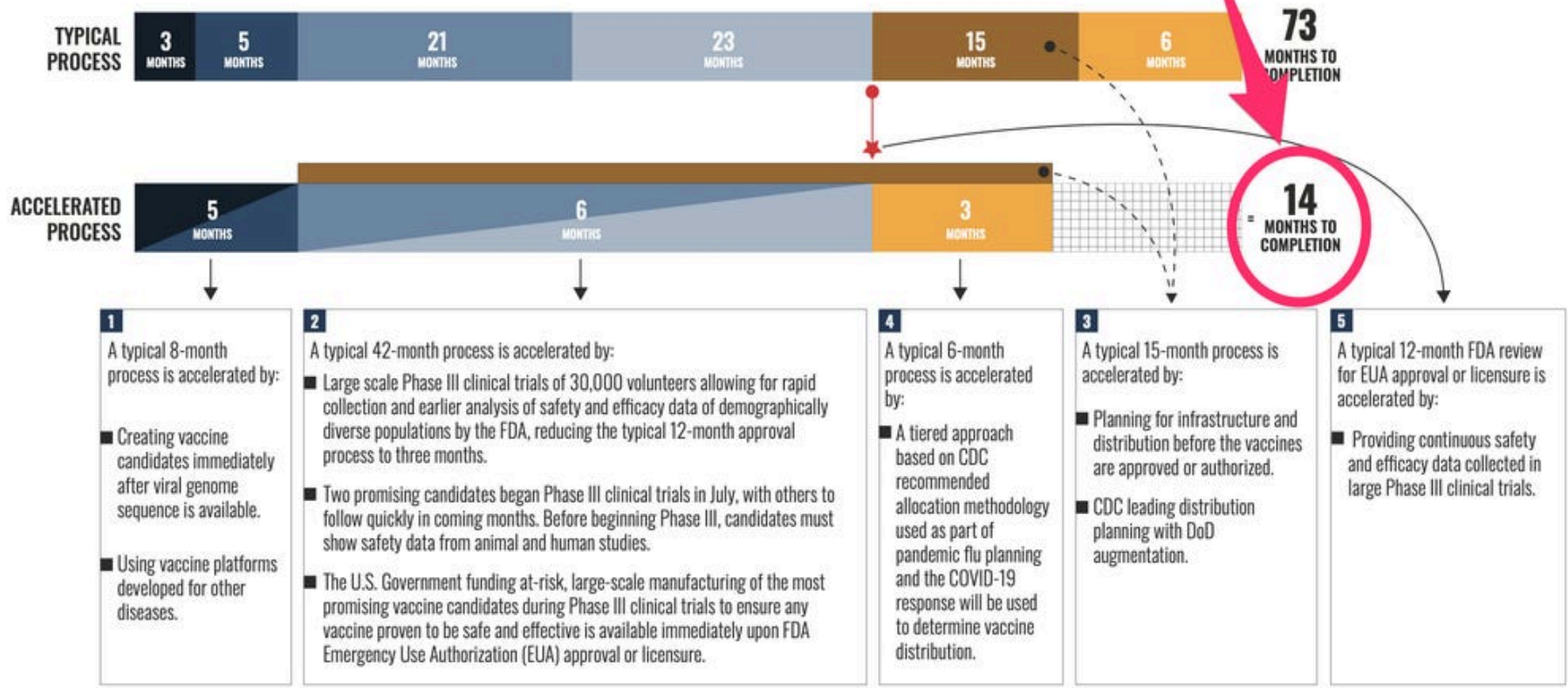
POTENTIAL CONFLICTS AND DISCLOSURES:

- Financial compensation to Emory for clinical research:
 - Pfizer, Merck, GSK, Sanofi Pasteur, Novavax, Regeneron, PaxVax, MedImmune, Janssen, and Micron unrelated to this talk.
 - Pfizer – pediatric trial
- I have served as consultant:
 - Medscape, Sanofi Pasteur, Janssen, and Pfizer
- Safety monitoring committee
 - Kentucky BioProcessing, Inc
 - Sanofi Pasteur
- NIH funded
 - Local PI for the Moderna mRNA-1273 Phase I and variant studies
 - Local PI for the Moderna mRNA-1273 Phase 3 study
 - Local PI for the Janssen Ad26-Spike protein Phase 3 study
 - Local PI for the Moderna mRNA-1273 KidCOVE



OPERATION WARP SPEED ACCELERATED VACCINE PROCESS

MISSION: Deliver 300 million doses of safe and effective vaccine by 1 January 2021.



R&D + Preclinical Trials Vaccine Candidate/s Identified
 Phase II Clinical Trials
 Phase III Clinical Trials
 Manufacturing
 Distribution

<https://media.defense.gov/2020/Aug/13/2002476369/-1/-1/0/200813-D-ZZ999-100.JPG>

>40 in clinical trials
>150 in preclinical eval

2 mRNA

- Pfizer mRNA BNT162b2; Phase 3: ~44K
- Moderna mRNA-1273; Phase 3: 30K

2 viral-vectored

- **AstraZeneca ChAd-Spike;** Phase 3: Data released, future uncertain, doses released by the US

- Janssen Ad26-Spike; Phase 3: Approved

2 S protein-based

- **Novavax NVX-CoV2373** – started end of Dec 2020, data pending
- **Sanofi/GSK-delayed** Insufficient antigen, Phase 2 study

SARS-CoV-2 Vaccines: Status Report

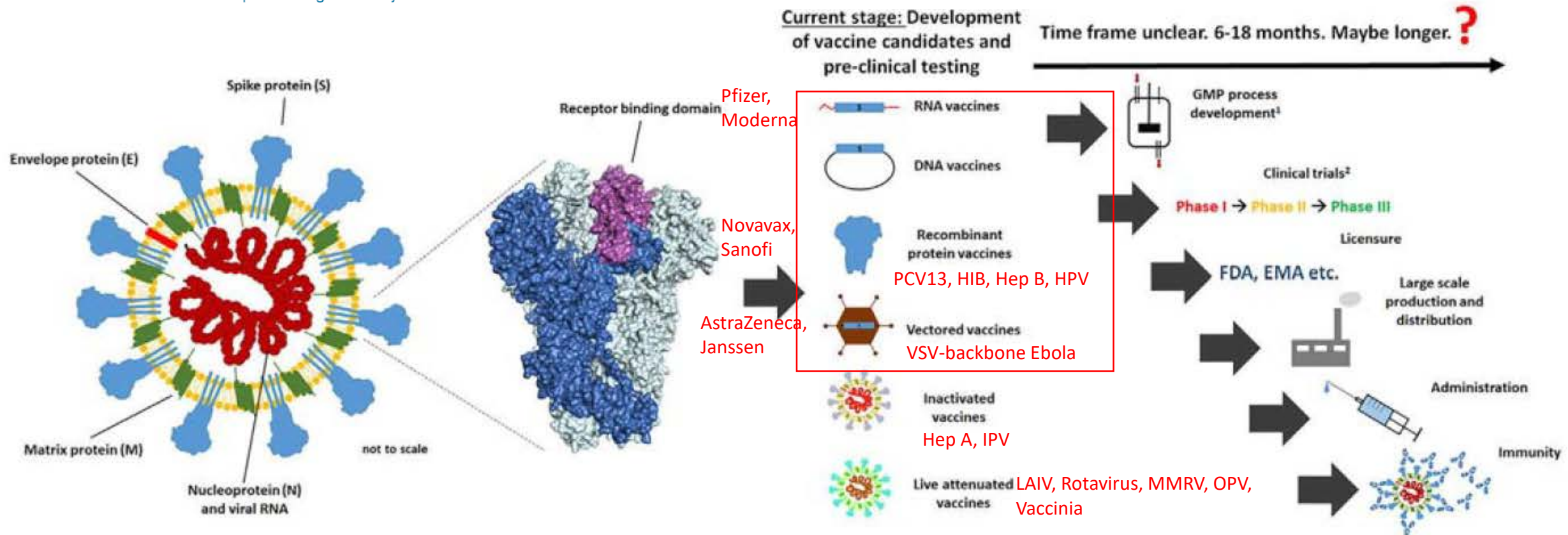
Fatima Amanat^{1,2} and Florian Krammer^{2,*}

¹Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY, USA

²Department of Microbiology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY, USA

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.immuni.2020.03.007>



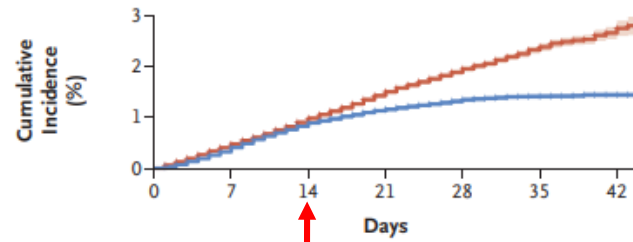
BNT162b2 mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine in a Nationwide Mass Vaccination Setting

Noa Dagan, M.D., Noam Barda, M.D., Eldad Kepten, Ph.D., Oren Miron, M.A.,
Shay Perchik, M.A., Mark A. Katz, M.D., Miguel A. Hernán, M.D.,
Marc Lipsitch, D.Phil., Ben Reis, Ph.D., and Ran D. Balicer, M.D.

DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2101765

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A Documented SARS-CoV-2 Infection



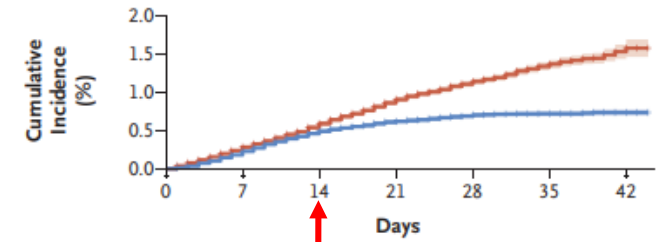
No. at Risk

Unvaccinated	596,618	413,052	261,625	186,553	107,209	37,164	4132
Vaccinated	596,618	413,527	262,180	187,702	108,529	38,029	4262

Cumulative No. of Events

Unvaccinated	0	2362	3971	5104	5775	6053	6100
Vaccinated	0	1965	3533	4124	4405	4456	4460

B Symptomatic Covid-19



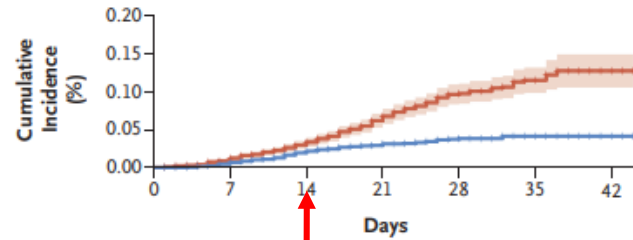
No. at Risk

Unvaccinated	596,618	413,768	262,662	187,784	108,242	37,564	4204
Vaccinated	596,618	414,140	263,179	188,740	109,261	38,299	4288

Cumulative No. of Events

Unvaccinated	0	1419	2393	3079	3433	3582	3607
Vaccinated	0	1103	1967	2250	2373	2387	2389

C Covid-19 Hospitalization



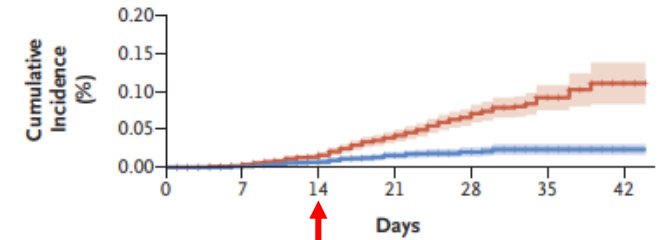
No. at Risk

Unvaccinated	596,618	414,865	264,377	189,808	109,867	38,432	4309
Vaccinated	596,618	414,916	264,482	189,972	110,054	38,561	4321

Cumulative No. of Events

Unvaccinated	0	58	125	198	244	256	259
Vaccinated	0	31	77	98	108	110	110

D Severe Covid-19



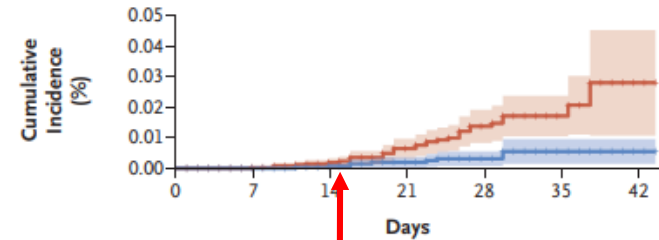
No. at Risk

Unvaccinated	596,618	414,898	264,437	189,874	109,929	38,467	4310
Vaccinated	596,618	414,933	264,516	190,000	110,076	38,571	4322

Cumulative No. of Events

Unvaccinated	0	17	57	114	157	171	174
Vaccinated	0	6	26	45	52	55	55

E Death Due to Covid-19



No. at Risk

Unvaccinated	596,618	414,909	264,479	189,950	110,008	38,510	4316
Vaccinated	596,618	414,938	264,538	190,032	110,101	38,575	4322

Cumulative No. of Events

Unvaccinated	0	1	6	16	27	30	32
Vaccinated	0	0	2	5	7	9	9

Do We Need a Vaccine for Children?

- Initial Impression: Children don't transmit virus
 - Less frequently symptomatic, uncertainty about impact of school closures
- Current Knowledge: Children do transmit SARS-CoV-2, just relatively less frequently

Clinical Infectious Diseases

REVIEW ARTICLE



Protecting the Community Through Child Vaccination

Evan J. Anderson,^{1,2,a} Michael A. Daugherty,^{1,3,a} Larry K. Pickering,¹ Walter A. Orenstein,^{2,3} and Ram Yogev⁴

Departments of ¹Pediatrics and ²Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine, and ³Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, and ⁴Department of Pediatrics, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois

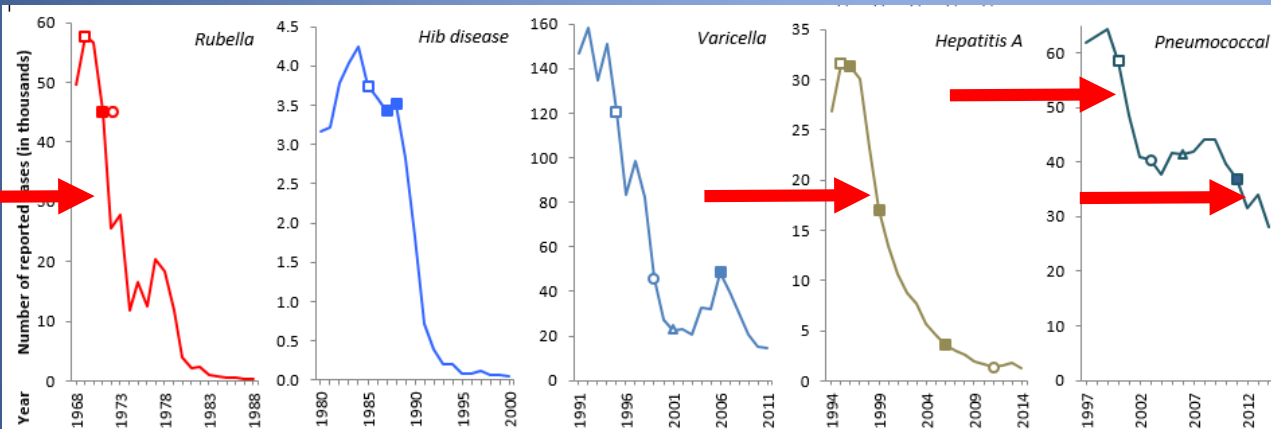


Figure 2: Annual reported* cases of select vaccine-preventable diseases in the United States for 20 – 25 year periods: diphtheria (A), pertussis (B), paralytic poliomyelitis (C), measles (D), mumps (E), rubella (F), *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (G), varicella (H), hepatitis A (I), and invasive pneumococcal disease (J). □ indicates new vaccine introduction, ■ indicates a change in vaccine or vaccination strategy, ○ indicates 50% coverage reached for children aged 19 – 35 months, and △ indicates 75% coverage reached for children aged 19 – 35 months or 1 – 4 years (depending on National Survey). Data from the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, Active Bacterial Core surveillance, Supplemental Pertussis Surveillance System, United States Immunization Survey, National Immunization Survey, and references 51 – 58. Rotavirus, influenza, and adolescent vaccines (MCC and HPV) were not included. *Cases are estimated for *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (only includes children aged <5 years) and invasive pneumococcal disease.

SARS-CoV-2 Transmission and Infection Among Attendees of an Overnight Camp — Georgia, June 2020

Christine M. Szablewski, DVM^{1,2}; Karen T. Chang, PhD^{2,3}; Marie M. Brown, MPH¹; Victoria T. Chu, MD^{2,3}; Anna R. Yousaf, MD^{2,3}; Ndubuisi Anyalechi, MD¹; Peter A. Aryee, MBA¹; Hannah L. Kirking, MD²; Maranda Lumsden¹; Erin Mayweather¹; Clinton J. McDaniel, MPH²; Robert Montierth, PharmD²; Asfia Mohammed¹; Noah G. Schwartz, MD^{2,3}; Jaina A. Shah¹; Jacqueline E. Tate, PhD²; Emilio Dirlikov, PhD²; Cherie Drenzek, DVM¹; Tatiana M. Lanzieri, MD²; Rebekah J. Stewart, MSN, MPH²

Children who likely got COVID-19 at two Utah child care centers spread it to household members



SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN CHILD CARE CENTERS

Letters

RESEARCH LETTER

Age-Related Differences in Nasopharyngeal Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) Levels in Patients With Mild to Moderate Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Do We Need a Vaccine for Children?

- Initial Impression: Children don't get sick (e.g., inadequate hosp., inadequate deaths)

Characteristics of and Important Lessons From the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreak in China
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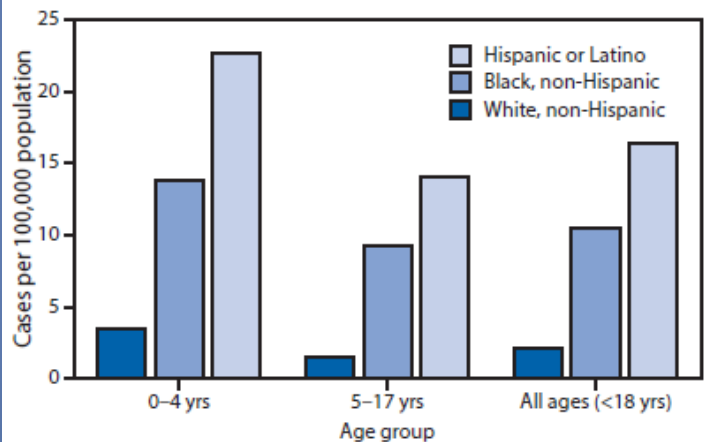
- Current Knowledge: Substantial burden of hospitalizations in children

Hospitalization Rates and Characteristics of Children Aged <18 Years Hospitalized with Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19 — COVID-NET, 14 States, March 1–July 25, 2020

Lindsay Kim, MD^{1,2}; Michael Whitaker, MPH^{1,3}; Alissa O'Halloran, MSPH¹;

Anita Kambhampati, MPH^{1,4}; Shua J. Chai, MD^{1,5}; Arthur Reingold, MD^{5,6}; Isaac Armistead, MD⁷; Breanna Kawasaki, MPH⁸; James Meek, MPH⁹; Kimberly Yousey-Hindes, MPH⁹; Evan J. Anderson, MD^{10,11}; Kyle P. Openo, DrPH¹¹; Andy Weigel, MSW¹²; Patricia Ryan, MSc¹³; Maya L. Monroe, MPH¹³; Kimberly Fox, MPH¹⁴; Sue Kim, MPH¹⁴; Ruth Lynfield, MD¹⁵; Erica Bye, MPH¹⁵; Sarah Shrum Davis, MPH¹⁶; Chad Smelser, MD¹⁷; Grant Barney, MPH¹⁸; Nancy L. Spina, MPH¹⁸; Nancy M. Bennett, MD¹⁹; Christina B. Felsen, MPH¹⁹; Laurie M. Billing, MPH²⁰; Jessica Shiltz, MPH²⁰; Melissa Sutton, MD²¹; Nicole West, MPH²¹; H. Keipp Talbot, MD²²; William Schaffner, MD²²; Ilene Risk, MPA²³; Andrea Price²³; Lynnette Brammer, MPH¹; Alicia M. Fry, MD^{1,2}; Aron J. Hall, DVM¹; Gayle E. Langley, MD¹; Shikha Garg, MD^{1,2}; COVID-NET Surveillance Team

FIGURE 2. Cumulative COVID-19-associated hospitalization rates* among children aged <18 years, by age group and race/ethnicity — COVID-NET, 14 states[†], March 1–July 25, 2020^{§,¶}



Virus	Hospitalizations/year
COVID-19	53.9 per 100,000 age 0-4 yrs 33 per 100,000 age 5-17 yrs Through 4/24/2021
Varicella	4–31 per 100,000 Age <20 yrs Years 1988–1995
Rubella	Not available‡
Hepatitis A†	107 hospitalized children Age <15 yrs Year 2005
Rotavirus	55,000–70,000 children Age <5 yrs Years 1993 – 2002
Influenza	34-92 per 100,000 age 0 – 4 yrs 20-41 per 100,000 age 5 – 17 yrs for 2016 – 2020 seasons

https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/COVIDNet/COVID19_3.html

<https://data.cdc.gov/NCHS/Provisional-COVID-19-Deaths-Focus-on-Ages-0-18-Yea/nr4s-juj3>

<https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/pedfludeath.html>

Do We Need a Vaccine for Children?

- Initial Impression: Children don't get sick (e.g., inadequate hosp., inadequate deaths)

THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children in New York State

Elizabeth M. Dufort, M.D., Emilia H. Koumans, M.D., M.P.H., Eric J. Chow, M.D., M.P.H., Elizabeth M. Rosenthal, M.P.H., Alison Muse, M.P.H., Jemma Rowlands, M.P.H., Meredith A. Barranco, M.P.H., Angela M. Maxted, D.V.M., Ph.D., Eli S. Rosenberg, Ph.D., Delia Easton, Ph.D., Tomoko Udo, Ph.D., Jessica Kumar, D.O., Wendy Pulver, M.S., Lou Smith, M.D., Brad Hutton, M.P.H., Debra Blog, M.D., M.P.H., and Howard Zucker, M.D., for the New York State and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children Investigation Team*

THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in U.S. Children and Adolescents

L.R. Feldstein, E.B. Rose, S.M. Horwitz, J.P. Collins, M.M. Newhams, M.B.F. Son, J.W. Newburger, L.C. Kleinman, S.M. Heidemann, A.A. Martin, A.R. Singh, S. Li, K.M. Tarquinio, P. Jaggi, M.E. Oster, S.P. Zackai, J. Gillen, A.J. Ratner, R.F. Walsh, J.C. Fitzgerald, M.A. Keenaghan, H. Alharash, S. Doymaz, K.N. Clouser, J.S. Giuliano, Jr., A. Gupta, R.M. Parker, A.B. Maddux, V. Havalad, S. Ramsingh, H. Bukulmez, T.T. Bradford, L.S. Smith, M.W. Tenforde, C.L. Carroll, B.J. Riggs, S.J. Gertz, A. Daube, A. Lansell, A. Coronado Munoz, C.V. Hobbs, K.L. Marohn, N.B. Halasa, M.M. Patel, and A.G. Randolph, for the Overcoming COVID-19 Investigators and the CDC COVID-19 Response Team*

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

COVID-19–Associated Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children — United States, March–July 2020

Shana Godfred-Cato, DO¹; Bobbi Bryant, MPH^{1,2}; Jessica Leung, MPH¹; Matthew E. Oster, MD¹; Laura Conklin, MD¹; Joseph Abrams, PhD¹; Katherine Roguski, MPH¹; Bailey Wallace, MPH^{1,2}; Emily Prezzato, MPH¹; Emilia H. Koumans, MD¹; Ellen H. Lee, MD³; Anita Geevarughese, MD³; Maura K. Lash, MPH³; Kathleen H. Reilly, PhD³; Wendy P. Pulver, MS⁴; Deepam Thomas, MPH³; Kenneth A. Feder, PhD⁶; Katherine K. Hsu, MD⁷; Nottasorn Plipat, MD, PhD⁸; Gillian Richardson, MPH⁹; Heather Reid¹⁰; Sarah Lim, MBBCh¹¹; Ann Schmitz, DVM^{12,13}; Timmy Pierce, MPH^{1,2}; Susan Hrapcak, MD¹; Deblina Datta, MD¹; Sapna Bamrah Morris, MD¹; Kevin Clarke, MD¹; Ermias Belay, MD¹; California MIS-C Response Team

Do We Need a Vaccine for Children?

- Initial Impression: Children don't get sick (e.g., inadequate hosp., inadequate deaths)

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- Current Knowledge: Substantial number of COVID-19-related deaths in children

Virus	Deaths
COVID-19	332 children Age ≤18 yrs Through 5/5/2021
Varicella	50 children per year Age <15 yrs Years 1970–1994
Rubella	17 children per year All ages Years 1966–1968
Hepatitis A†	3 children per year Age <20 yrs Years 1990–1995
Rotavirus	20–60 children per year Age <5 yrs Years 1999–2007
Influenza	110-198 children per year Years 2016 – 2020



https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/COVIDNet/COVID19_3.html

<https://data.cdc.gov/NCHS/Provisional-COVID-19-Deaths-Focus-on-Ages-0-18-Yea/nr4s-juj3>

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- Substantial non-medical direct impact upon children by COVID-19
 - Education (e.g., online learning), extracurricular activities (e.g., sports, drama, music, social events), economic, and the emotional and psychological development of children



Start Initial Vaccine Studies in Children

- Why pediatric studies?
 - Differences in height, weight, body surface area, muscle mass, and fat distribution in children
 - Need to understand reactogenicity, safety, and immunogenicity in children + establish the dose
- Delay in starting pediatric studies from the experts:
 - *“...begin pediatric studies after safety and efficacy is established in adults...”*
- Perspective:
 - Adult phase 1/2 COVID-19 studies conducted in parallel with animal studies → expediting of Phase 3
 - Vaccine development typically starts with a small Phase 1 study of healthy young adults
 - **Phase 2 and 3 studies in children usually occur without large studies of adult safety / efficacy**
 - Pediatric vaccines licensed BEFORE substantial adult safety/efficacy data
 - Rotavirus (RV1, RV5), polio, PCV7/13, HIB, MMR
 - Multiple live-attenuated RSV vaccines in children currently with very minimal adult data

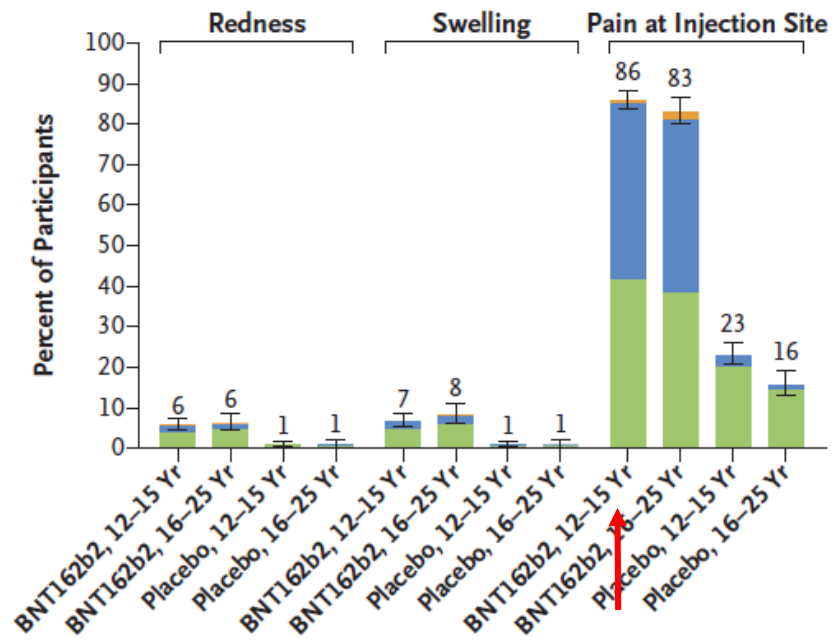
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Safety, Immunogenicity, and Efficacy of the BNT162b2 Covid-19 Vaccine in Adolescents

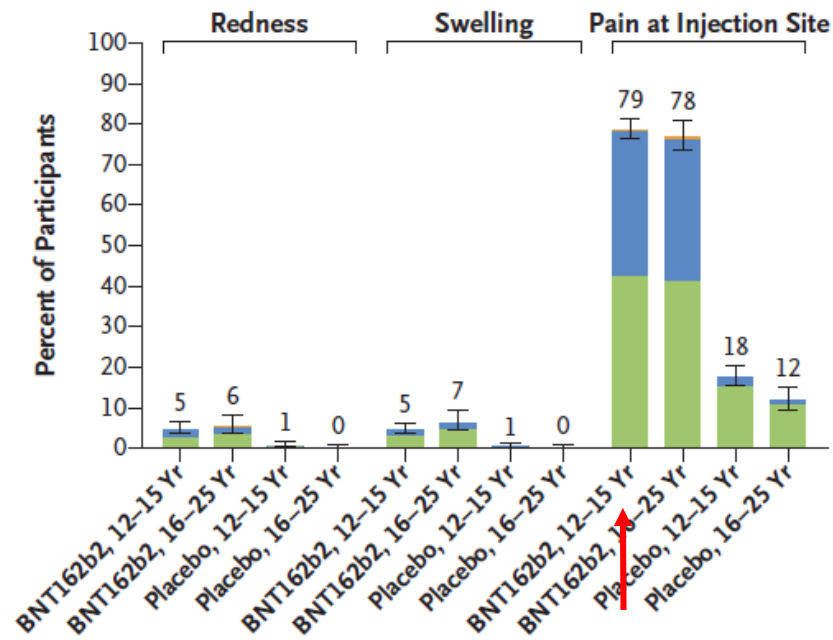
Robert W. Frenck, Jr., M.D., Nicola P. Klein, M.D., Ph.D., Nicholas Kitchin, M.D., Alejandra Gurtman, M.D., Judith Absalon, M.D., Stephen Lockhart, D.M., John L. Perez, M.D., Emmanuel B. Walter, M.D., Shelly Senders, M.D., Ruth Bailey, B.Sc., Kena A. Swanson, Ph.D., Hua Ma, Ph.D., Xia Xu, Ph.D., Kenneth Koury, Ph.D., Warren V. Kalina, Ph.D., David Cooper, Ph.D., Timothy Jennings, D.O., Donald M. Brandon, M.D., Stephen J. Thomas, M.D., Özlem Türeci, M.D., Dina B. Tresnan, D.V.M., Ph.D., Susan Mather, M.D., Philip R. Dormitzer, M.D., Ph.D., Uğur Şahin, M.D., Kathrin U. Jansen, Ph.D., and William C. Gruber, M.D., for the C4591001 Clinical Trial Group*

■ Mild; temperature 38.0 to 38.4°C ■ Moderate; temperature >38.4 to 38.9°C ■ Severe; temperature >38.9 to 40.0°C ■ Grade 4; temperature >40.0°C

A Local Events, Dose 1



B Local Events, Dose 2

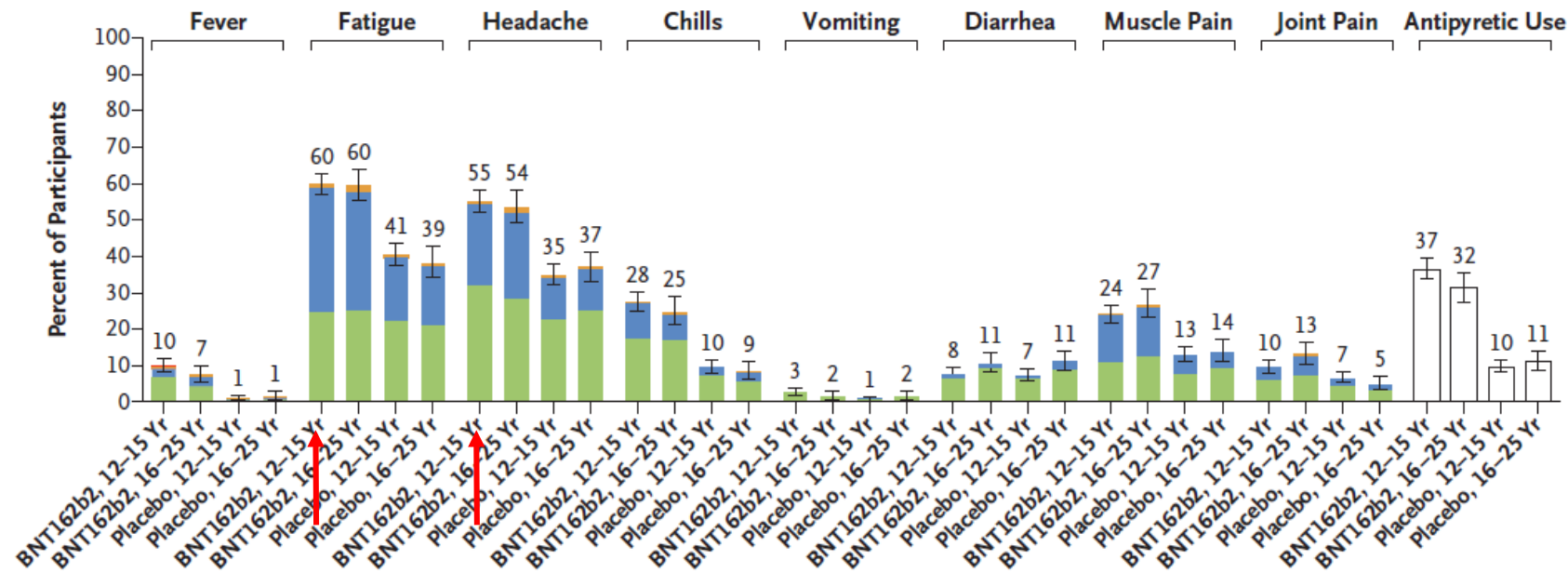


ORIGINAL ARTICLE

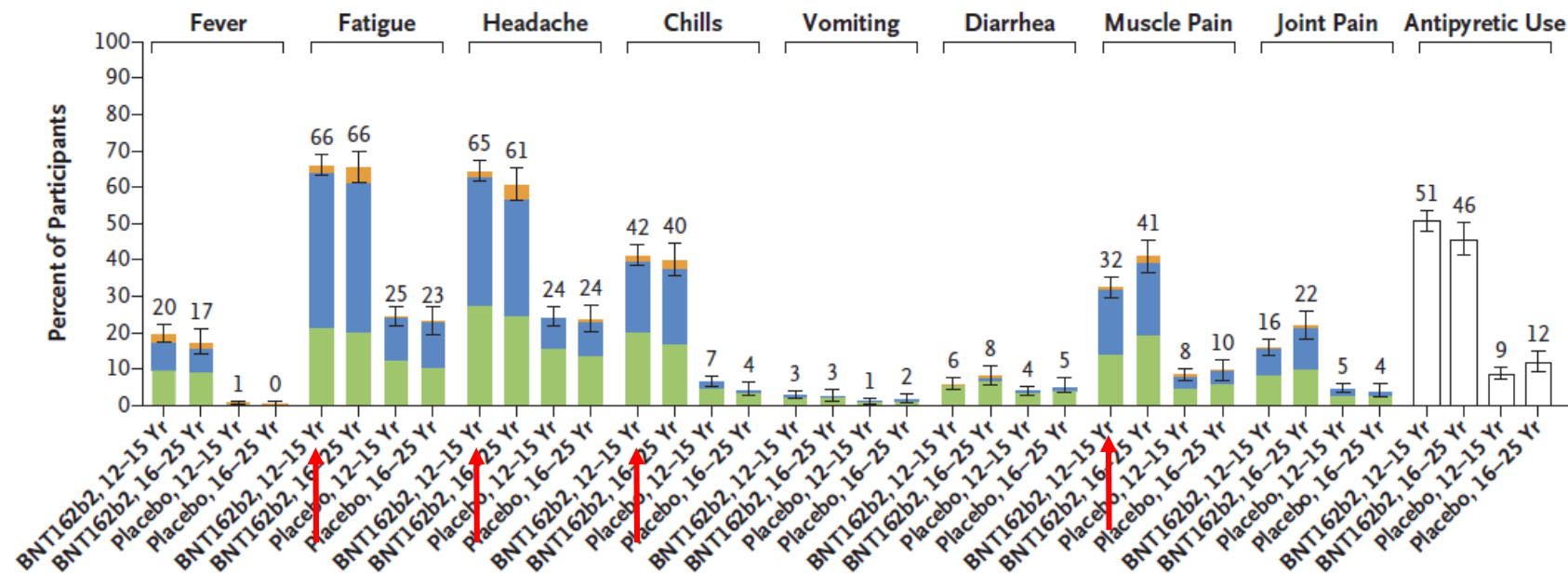
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C Systemic Events and Use of Medication, Dose 1



D Systemic Events and Use of Medication, Dose 2



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Table 2. SARS-CoV-2 Serum Neutralization Assay Results 1 Month after Dose 2 of BNT162b2 among Participants without Evidence of Infection.*

Age Group	No. of Participants	Geometric Mean 50% Neutralizing Titer (95% CI) [†]	Geometric Mean Ratio (95% CI), 12 to 15 Yr vs. 16 to 25 Yr [‡]
12–15 yr	190	1239.5 (1095.5–1402.5)	1.76 (1.47–2.10)
16–25 yr	170	705.1 (621.4–800.2)	—

Table 3. Vaccine Efficacy against Covid-19 in Participants 12 to 15 Years of Age.*

Efficacy End Point [†]	BNT162b2		Placebo		% Vaccine Efficacy (95% CI) [‡]
	No. of Participants with Event/ Total No. [§]	Surveillance Time (No. at Risk) [¶]	No. of Participants with Event/ Total No. [§]	Surveillance Time (No. at Risk) [¶]	
Covid-19 occurrence at least 7 days after dose 2 in participants without evidence of previous infection	0/1005	0.154 (1001)	16/978	0.147 (972)	100 (75.3–100)
Covid-19 occurrence at least 7 days after dose 2 in participants with or without evidence of previous infection	0/1119	0.170 (1109)	18/1110	0.163 (1094)	100 (78.1–100)

* Results are for the efficacy population that could be evaluated, which included all eligible 12-to-15-year-old participants who received two doses of BNT162b2 or placebo as randomly assigned, with dose 2 received within the prespecified window, and had no major protocol deviations.

[†] Participants without evidence of previous infection were those who had no serologic or virologic evidence of past SARS-CoV-2 infection before 7 days after dose 2 (i.e., N-binding antibody testing [serum] negative at vaccination visit 1 and SARS-CoV-2 not detected by NAAT [nasal swab] at vaccination visits 1 and 2) and had negative NAAT results (nasal swab) at any unscheduled visit before 7 days after dose 2.

[‡] The 95% confidence interval for vaccine efficacy was derived on the basis of the Clopper–Pearson method with adjustment for surveillance time.

[§] The number of participants with a first occurrence of Covid-19 at 7 or more days after dose 2 and the total number of participants with data are shown.

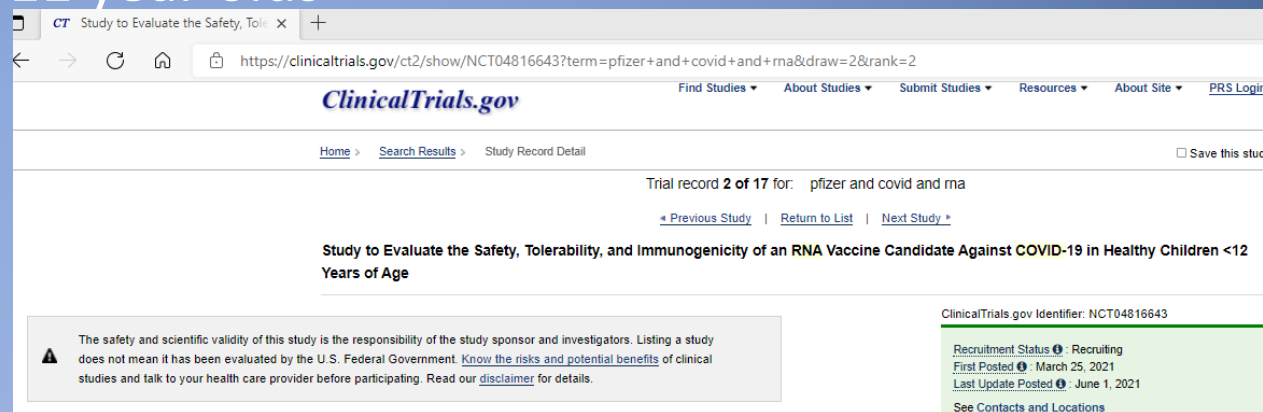
[¶] Total surveillance time in 1000 person-years for the given end point across all participants within each group of participants who were at risk for the end point is shown. The period for Covid-19 case accrual was from 7 days after dose 2 to the end of the surveillance period.

Pediatric Update

- Pfizer 12 – 17 year old study data
 - March 31 Pfizer press release
 - April 9 Pfizer submitted data to FDA for expansion of their EUA (12 – 15 year olds)
 - May 10 FDA expanded the EUA
 - May 12 reviewed and approved by ACIP
- Moderna also have 12 – 17 year old study data (TeenCOVE): 3,700 participants (2:1) 100 mcg
 - 0 cases in vaccine versus 4 in placebo 14 days after vaccination = 100% efficacy
 - 93% efficacy after the first vaccination
 - Pain, headache, fatigue, myalgia, chills (especially after second dose)
 - 06MAY2021 and 25MAY2021 press releases of the data
 - Reportedly submitting data to FDA for expansion of their EUA (12 – 17 year olds) in JUNE
 - ___ FDA review
 - ___ ACIP review

Pediatric Update

- Studies for those <12 years of age
 - Age de-escalation
 - Dose escalation/finding studies
- Pfizer – NCT04816643:
 - September for data for 2 – 11 year olds



CT Study to Evaluate the Safety, Tol: x +

https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04816643?term=pfizer+and+covid+and+rna&draw=2&rank=2

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Trial record 2 of 17 for: pfizer and covid and rna

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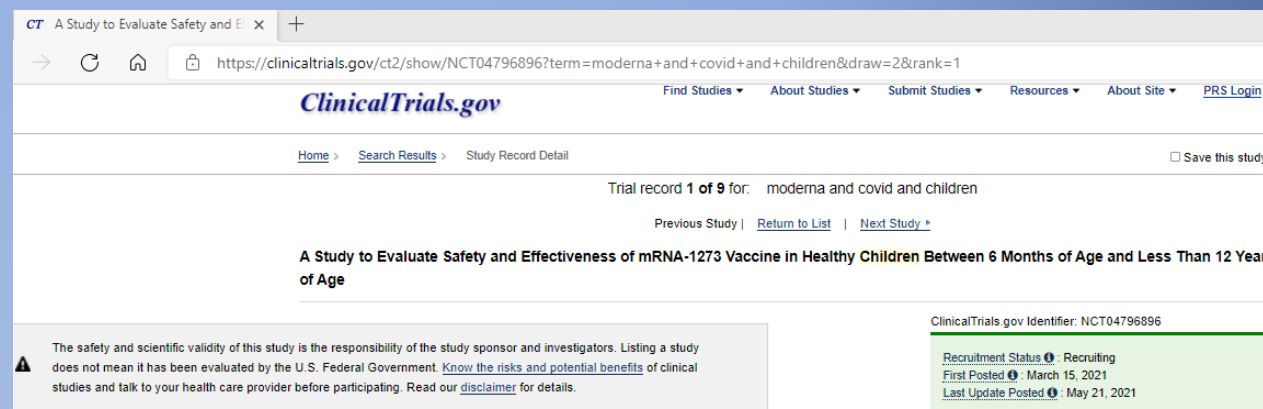
Study to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability, and Immunogenicity of an RNA Vaccine Candidate Against COVID-19 in Healthy Children <12 Years of Age

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT04816643

Recruitment Status: Recruiting
First Posted: March 25, 2021
Last Update Posted: June 1, 2021
See Contacts and Locations

The safety and scientific validity of this study is the responsibility of the study sponsor and investigators. Listing a study does not mean it has been evaluated by the U.S. Federal Government. Know the risks and potential benefits of clinical studies and talk to your health care provider before participating. Read our disclaimer for details.

- Moderna - NCT04796896
 - No timeline stated



CT A Study to Evaluate Safety and E: x +

https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04796896?term=moderna+and+covid+and+children&draw=2&rank=1

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Trial record 1 of 9 for: moderna and covid and children

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A Study to Evaluate Safety and Effectiveness of mRNA-1273 Vaccine in Healthy Children Between 6 Months of Age and Less Than 12 Years of Age

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT04796896

Recruitment Status: Recruiting
First Posted: March 15, 2021
Last Update Posted: May 21, 2021

The safety and scientific validity of this study is the responsibility of the study sponsor and investigators. Listing a study does not mean it has been evaluated by the U.S. Federal Government. Know the risks and potential benefits of clinical studies and talk to your health care provider before participating. Read our disclaimer for details.

Pediatric Update

- Studies for those <12 years of age
 - Janssen?
 - Novavax?
- Some uncertainty about whether the FDA will grant an EUA for those <12 years of age.
- Distribution challenges: Pfizer
- Ongoing safety data review:

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following details:

- Browser Tabs:** "A Study to Evaluate Safety and E...", "Clinical Considerations: Myocard..."
- Address Bar:** https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/myocarditis.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_425-DM58530&ACSTrackingLabel=Clinical%20C...
- Page Header:** CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People™. Includes a search bar and "Vaccines site" dropdown.
- Page Title:** Vaccines & Immunizations
- Breadcrumbs:** CDC > COVID-19 Vaccination > Clinical Care
- Left Sidebar:** A navigation menu for COVID-19 Vaccination with items: Product Info by US Vaccine (+), Clinical Care (-), COVID-19 Vaccines, Managing Anaphylaxis, Myocarditis and Pericarditis Considerations (highlighted), Lab Tests After Severe Allergic Reaction, Vaccinating Homebound Persons, and Jurisdictions: Vaccinating Older Adults and People with Disabilities.
- Main Content:**
 - Section:** Clinical Considerations: Myocarditis and Pericarditis after Receipt of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Among Adolescents and Young Adults
 - Summary:** Since April 2021, increased cases of myocarditis and pericarditis have been reported in the United States after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna), particularly in adolescents and young adults. There has not been a similar reporting pattern observed after receipt of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine (Johnson & Johnson). In most cases, patients who presented for medical care have responded well to medications and rest and had prompt improvement of symptoms. Reported cases have occurred predominantly in male adolescents and young adults 16 years of age and older. Onset was typically within several days after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination, and cases have occurred more often after the second dose than the first dose. CDC and its partners are investigating these reports of myocarditis and pericarditis following mRNA COVID-19 vaccination. CDC continues to recommend COVID-19 vaccination for everyone 12 years of age and older given the risk of COVID-19 illness and related, possibly severe complications, such as long-term health problems, hospitalization, and even death.

Should We Mandate a COVID-19 Vaccine for Children?

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The zeal to develop and implement a vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) infection has been exceptional. Operation Warp Speed, the Trump administration's proposal, seeks to produce hundreds of millions of doses of a vaccine by January 2021. Recent polls show as many as 70% of adults in the United States plan to get vaccinated against COVID-19 once a vaccine is available.¹ And thousands of adults have registered to participate as volunteers in human challenge trials to speed up the development of a new vaccine.²

We anticipate that this fervor will eventually lead to discussions about making a COVID-19 vaccine mandatory. An obvious group to target for mandatory vaccination is children. Not only do we already mandate several vaccines for them to attend school, but strategies to reopen schools or keep them open may be predicated on it.

Some might suggest the current US approach to influenza vaccine should inform our approach to a COVID-19 vaccine: no states require influenza vaccination for children to attend school. The analogy is understandable because the virus that causes COVID-

mandate may be the only way to achieve the high herd immunity threshold needed to provide wide community protection. Consider the measles virus. It has an R_0 of 12 to 18; as a result, approximately 92% to 94% of the population must be immune to prevent spread. This has been achieved by requiring 2 doses of measles vaccine for children in all states before enrollment in school, with only very limited ways to opt out.

Rather than resort to analogies, we can use 9 standard criteria that can help guide whether a COVID-19 vaccine for children should be mandated (Box).^{5,6} These criteria can be divided into 3 categories: 4 criteria related to the vaccine, 2 related to the disease, and 3 related to implementation. Ordinarily, each of these criteria would be considered in determining whether a vaccine should be mandated for children, although the weight given to each criterion may differ. In times of great public health need, such as the present pandemic, however, we propose that each criterion continue to be evaluated in making vaccine policy, but 5 criteria should be prioritized.

The criterion that should be prioritized over all others is the first: there must be evidence that a COVID-19

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Nevertheless, with these criteria as a framework, the only logical conclusion is that we currently know too little about the performance of any of the candidate COVID-19 vaccines or the epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 in children to make any firm judgments about whether a COVID-19 vaccine should be mandatory in children. Yet, it is not too early to begin integrating these criteria into our planning to help ensure we get this decision right. Our nation's children deserve as much.

Box. Criteria to Consider When Evaluating Antigens for Inclusion in Mandatory School Immunization Programs

- Vaccine related:* Experience to date with the vaccine containing this antigen indicates that it is safe and has an acceptable level of adverse effects.
- Vaccine related:* The antigen is effective as measured by immunogenicity and population-based prevention.
- Vaccine related:* The vaccine containing this antigen is as cost-effective from a societal perspective as other vaccines used to prevent disease.
- Vaccine related:* The vaccine containing this antigen should bear some relationship to increasing safety in the school environment.
- Disease related:* The vaccine containing this antigen prevents disease(s) with significant morbidity and/or mortality in at least some subset of the population.^a
- Disease related:* Vaccinating the infant, child, or adolescent against this disease reduces the risk of person-to-person transmission.^b
- Implementation related:* The vaccine is acceptable to the medical community and the public.
- Implementation related:* The administrative burdens of delivery and tracking of vaccine containing this antigen(s) are reasonable.
- Implementation related:* The burden of adherence for the vaccine containing this antigen is reasonable for the parent/caregiver.

^a Adapted from Washington State Board of Health, Immunization Advisory Committee.⁵

^b Adapted from Opel et al.⁶

Summary

Substantial burden in children including hospitalization, MIS-C, and death

Substantial other impacts upon children (educational, social, psychological)

Pediatric Vax data extending down to age 12, EUA for Pfizer, ongoing safety evaluations

Pfizer and Moderna have ongoing trials in those <12 years of age