

# Illinois Chapter

INCORPORATED IN ILLINOIS

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



May 13, 2021

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Jennie A. Pinkwater, MNM  
310 S. Peoria Suite 304  
Chicago, IL 60607  
312/733-1026, ext 213 (O)  
312/733-1791 (F)  
jpinkwater@illinoisAAP.com

RE: Supporting Families, Children and Schools with Options to Get Vaccinated

With vaccines now available to protect against COVID-19, we are making big steps forward to end the pandemic. As of May 12, 2021, three vaccines have received emergency use authorization for adults, and one (Pfizer-BioNTech) is now authorized for children aged 12 and up. Clinical trials have concluded that the vaccine is safe and effective in children in this age group. Please continue to stay abreast of the latest news related to vaccine access on the state's [coronavirus.illinois.gov](https://www.coronavirus.illinois.gov) website and through your local jurisdictions. Approval of a COVID-19 vaccine for children younger than 12 is still pending authorization from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

ICAAP encourages schools and parents to make sure children are caught up on their vaccinations against measles, influenza, whooping cough, and any others that your pediatrician or provider recommends, or that is required for school entry. In addition to approving the vaccine's use for adolescents, on May 12<sup>th</sup> the CDC updated its clinical guidance to allow COVID-19 vaccines to be administered at the same time as other routine vaccines. The AAP supported both moves in a [new policy statement](#) titled *COVID-19 Vaccines in Children and Adolescents*. Please make a plan now to receive the COVID-19 vaccine for your entire family as soon as you can. **If your pediatrician does not yet carry the Pfizer vaccine, do not delay. Click on [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), filter for the Pfizer vaccine, and locate a provider near you such as a hospital or local pharmacy.** The COVID-19 vaccine is our best hope for ending the pandemic and returning to normal.

For more information, visit:

ICAAP COVID-19 Campaign: <https://illinoisAAP.org/covid19-immunization-campaign/>

AAP COVID-19: [Healthychildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org)

- The Science Behind the COVID-19 Vaccine: Parent FAQs
- Ask the Pediatrician: When will it be safe for my children to hug their grandparents once they get the COVID-19 vaccine?
- Information for Families: When can children get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Dobbins, MD".

Mary Dobbins, MD, FAAP, President