

THE **MARFAN** FOUNDATION



Update on COVID-19 and Vaccine Information for Children with Marfan, VEDS, Loays Dietz and Related Genetic Aortic and Vascular Conditions

November 4, 2021

The Professional Advisory Board of The Marfan Foundation continues to recommend that all eligible persons get vaccinated for COVID-19. This includes eligible children and pregnant and lactating individuals. It also includes people who had and recovered from COVID-19 infection.

The abundant data indicate that vaccination has very low risk, much lower than COVID-19 infection, and that vaccination is far more likely to prevent serious complications than to cause them. This includes myocarditis (an inflammation of the heart muscle), which has occurred in a very small fraction of the millions of people who have been vaccinated, and which has been mild and has easily resolved with treatment in almost every case. Additionally, there is no reason to believe people with genetic aortic and vascular conditions are more at risk of developing myocarditis from the vaccine than any other person. COVID-19 infection is much more likely to injure the heart than vaccination.

The position of the Professional Advisory Board remains that the potential benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh potential risks for individuals with Marfan syndrome or related conditions.

Children 12 and older:

Children 12 years and older are now able to get the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine under the FDA's emergency use authorization. These young adolescents will receive the same dose as the adult dose and should have two shots spaced three weeks apart.

Children Ages 5-12:

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children 5-12 received recommendations from the FDA for emergency use authorization and has been recommended by the CDC and, therefore, will be available this week. The vaccine has been shown to be more than 90% effective in children at preventing symptomatic infection in young children.

Children 5-12 year old will be given 1/3 of the adult dose and will also be expected to get two doses that are three weeks apart.

If there is a winter surge or case numbers remain at current levels, the number of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in kids would be (reduced or minimized) by vaccination. Vaccinating young adolescents would also help prevent cases in older adults and those at higher risk of getting infected.