

May 2022 COVID-19 Update

Moving Forward on Vaccine for Children 5 and Under

Moderna [asked](#) the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for emergency use authorization for its COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 6 months to under 6 years old, mRNA-1273, last week.

"We are proud to share that we have initiated our EUA submission for authorization for our COVID-19 vaccine for young children," said Stéphane Bancel, Chief Executive Officer of Moderna. "We believe mRNA-1273 will be able to safely protect these children against SARS-CoV-2, which is so important in our continued fight against COVID-19 and will be especially welcomed by parents and caregivers." Moderna reports that results from the KidCOVE study showed a 25 microgram dose, about a quarter of what is given to adults, produced an immune response in all children 6 and younger that was similar to what was seen in adults between 18 and 25 years-old.

KidCOVE is a randomized, observer-blind, placebo-controlled expansion study being conducted in collaboration with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), part of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Biden Administration Increases Access to COVID-19 Treatments

The White House [announced](#) new actions to make COVID-19 treatments easier to access and to ensure health care providers and patients know about their safety, efficacy, and availability. The effort includes:

- nearly doubling the number of places oral antivirals are available;
- increasing Test-to-Treat sites in pharmacies and other clinical settings;
- providing medical providers with more guidance and tools to understand and prescribe treatments; and
- expanding public education efforts to focus on making sure people know that oral antiviral treatments must be taken within the first 5 days of symptom onset.

A national online Test-to-Treat locator is [here](#) and a call center provides help in English, Spanish, and more than 150 other languages at 800-232-0233.

Public Transportation Mask Requirements Lifted

As a result of a court order, the Centers for Disease Control [announced](#) that the mask requirement on public transportation and at transportation hubs is no longer in effect as of April 18th. In the decision, the federal judge in Florida ruled the CDC failed to justify the mandate and exceeded its rulemaking authority. In a [response](#), the Department of Justice and CDC said they “disagree with the district court’s decision and will appeal” if the CDC concludes that “a mandatory order remains necessary for the public’s health.”

The mask mandate in Washington state ended on March 21st for schools, childcare facilities, bars and restaurants, churches, gyms, grocery stores and other retail and business establishments. The Washington State Department of Health, however, still [recommends](#) people age five and older wear masks in crowded indoor settings and confined spaces.

Antigen Tests Receive Three-Month Extension

The Food and Drug Administration granted a three-month shelf-life [extension](#) for the iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Tests, which were distributed by Washington Department of Health’s sayyestocovidhometest.org and the federal government’s COVIDTests.gov programs.

The company, iHealth, sought the three-month extension for tests that are stored between 2° and 30°C (36° to 86°F) for tests with expiration dates on or before September 29, 2022. For example, if the expiration date printed on the box says 2022-06-22, the updated expiration date is three months later, on 2022-09-22. Expiration dates can also be determined based on the lot number located on the back of the box [here](#).

iHealth announced it will continue to apply to the FDA for shelf-life extensions every three months based on stability studies. The new shelf-lives will apply to tests already produced as well as future production.