**\*\*Please note this is a sample: Letter to family members re: COVID-19 Vaccines for 5-11 year old children**

Dear Parents:

As you may have heard, the CDC Advisory Panel met on Tuesday, November 2 to review the information provided by the FDA regarding administration of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to children between the ages of 5 and 11. Along with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the GA Chapter of the AAP, the FDA, and now the CDC, Name of practice strongly recommends that you vaccinate your children against COVID-19. While there appears to be a slowing of cases in our community and COVID-19 has not affected children as severely as adults, as of October 28, 2021, the AAP stated that there have been 6,396,278 total child COVID-19 cases reported, and children represented 16.6% of all cases.

As pediatricians, we want to provide the greatest protection possible against this disease, and this vaccine is our strongest tool in preventing severe illness, COVID-19-related hospitalizations, and in the more severe situations, death.

According to the AAP, the COVID-19 vaccine is particularly important for children with chronic illnesses such as obesity, diabetes, asthma or chronic lung disease, sickle cell disease or who have suppressed immunity. These children can be at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Please call now to schedule your child’s COVID-19 vaccine appointment. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine will be provided in two doses, so schedule your child’s second dose at the completion of the first dose. As there are many holidays in November and December, please keep this in mind when scheduling your child’s first and second dose.

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine should be given three weeks apart. This is similar to the dosage schedule for older children and adults. However, each dose will contain 1/3 the amount given to adults. Results of the clinical trial have shown a robust response to the vaccine once both doses are provided. Immunity takes place approximately two weeks after the second dose.

If your child is due for a well-check and other immunizations, please let us know. We will attempt to complete everything during one visit. We are also continuing to provide COVID-19 vaccines for children who are 12 years of age and older. Again, we strongly recommend this vaccine for this age group as well.

* If you have any questions or concerns about side effects and the safety of this vaccine, don’t hesitate to reach out to your child’s healthcare provider. Understanding the risks as well as the benefits of this vaccine is an important part of your discussion with your child’s healthcare provider.

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine for children from 5 to 11 years of age, please visit <https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/children-and-covid-19-state-level-data-report/> or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/children-teens.html>.

Thank you for your continued trust in (Name of Practice).