Vaccine manufacturers are conducting clinical trials to assess the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccination among children younger than 5 years old. Pfizer-BioNTech has begun submitting data on a three-dose primary series to FDA for an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) application for a vaccine for children ages 6 months through 4 years. Moderna has also begun submitting data on a two-dose primary series for children aged 6 months through 5 years. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will review the submitted data and determine if vaccines are safe and effective and if they should be authorized for emergency use. Following FDA authorization, CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will meet to discuss making a recommendation to the CDC director on the use of authorized vaccines based on a thorough review of the available evidence. ACIP’s decision will be sent to the CDC director for review and the CDC director makes a final determination about the use of vaccine. If the CDC director recommends use of the vaccine, it will become available for administration beginning the last few weeks of June.
It's okay to have questions about COVID-19 vaccines for kids. FACTS to consider:

- COVID-19 does affect children. In the U.S., over 12 million children have become ill with COVID-19, over 122,000 children have been hospitalized, and over 1,400 children have died since the beginning of the pandemic.

- While children with pre-existing conditions are at a higher risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes, healthy children can get severe COVID-19 too. During the Omicron period, 63% of children under 5 years old who were hospitalized with COVID-19 did not have underlying conditions.

The FDA is meeting on June 15 to discuss COVID-19 vaccine authorizations for children under 5. We are eager for this next step to continue to protect children from COVID-19.

Response Requested:

In order for Alpine County to prepare, we need to know how many of you who are parents of infants and children who are 6 months to 5 years of age are interested in having your infant or child vaccinated.

If you are interested, or if you would like to further discuss this development with me:

- Call 530-694-2146, Option 1 and leave a message with your name and phone number.
- E-mail me at rjohnson@alpinecountyca.gov with your name and phone number.

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