



COVID-19

COVID-19 Vaccine Side Effects in Children and Teens

Updated Apr. 6, 2022

What You Need to Know

- Children and teens may have some [side effects after getting their COVID-19 vaccine](#).
- These side effects may affect their ability to do daily activities, but they should go away within a few days.
- Some children and teens have no side effects.

Common COVID-19 Vaccine Side Effects

Children ages 5 through 11 years

A [review of vaccine safety data](#) for **children ages 5 through 11 years** found that side effects most commonly reported after getting vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine were **mild and brief**. These side effects were more common after the second dose and include:

- Headache
- Pain in the arm where the shot was given
- Tiredness

Children and teens ages 12 through 17 years

[For children and teens ages 12 through 17 years](#), the most commonly reported side effects after getting the first two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine are:

- Tiredness
- Fever
- Headache
- Pain in the arm where the shot was given

Possible Side Effects after Booster Shot

Reactions reported after getting a Pfizer-BioNTech booster shot were like those after the initial two doses (i.e., primary series). Overall, most side effects were mild to moderate. However, as with the primary series, [serious side effects are rare](#), but may occur.

Learn more about the [safety of COVID-19 vaccines](#) and [understanding adverse events and side effects](#).

Help Manage Side Effects after Vaccination

Help Manage Side Effects After Vaccination

In general, aspirin is **not recommended** for use in anyone younger than 18 years old. Aspirin puts children at risk for Reye's syndrome, which can cause swelling in the brain and liver. Placing a cool, damp cloth on the area of the arm where the shot was given can help with discomfort.

Ask your child's doctor for advice on using a **non-aspirin pain reliever** and other steps you can take at home after your child gets vaccinated.

Get Started with v-safe

After getting your child vaccinated, **enroll them in the v-safe After Vaccination Health Checker**. v-safe provides personalized and confidential health check-ins after COVID-19 vaccination.

Learn more about [v-safe](#) and share with other parents and caregivers the importance of enrolling after vaccination.

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