

6 Things to Know about COVID-19 Vaccination for Children

Information for parents and caregivers of children ages 5 years and older



Everyone ages 5 years and older should get a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible.

1. COVID-19 vaccination for children is safe.

Before recommending COVID-19 vaccination for children, scientists conducted clinical trials. Then, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determined the [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#) is safe and effective, and authorized it for emergency use in children.

Ongoing safety monitoring shows that COVID-19 vaccination continues to be safe for children and that **the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks.**



Learn more about the [safety of COVID-19 vaccination for children](#).



Tips for Parents and Caregivers:

- **Before vaccination**, tell the vaccine provider about any allergies your child may have—just like what you would do when your child receives their routine vaccines.
- **Requesting accommodations at COVID-19 vaccination sites:** When making an appointment or arriving for vaccination, you can let staff and/or volunteers know your child might need some accommodations. By law, children are also allowed to have a service animal accompany them. Learn more about [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children and Teens with Disabilities](#).

2. Getting vaccinated can help protect children against COVID-19.

Vaccinating children can:

- **Prevent children from getting seriously sick if they do get COVID-19.** COVID-19 vaccination continues to protect children against severe disease, including hospitalization. There is no way to tell in advance how children will be affected by COVID-19. Children with [underlying medical conditions](#) are more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19. However, healthy children without underlying medical conditions can also experience severe illness.



- Keep children safely in childcare and school and participating in sports, playdates, extracurricular activities, and other group activities.



Tips for Parents and Caregivers:

- Learn more about [protecting your family against COVID-19](#).
- [Questions You Can Ask Your School to Learn More About Their COVID-19 Precautions](#)

3. Children may have some side effects after COVID-19 vaccination.

Reported side effects are like those experienced after routine vaccines. Side effects may affect your child's ability to do daily activities, but they should go away within a few days. Side effects are more common after the second shot. Some children have no side effects.

Learn more about potential [side effects in children after COVID-19 vaccination](#).



Enroll Your Child in v-safe

After getting your child vaccinated, use **v-safe** to get health check-ins and share how your child feels after COVID-19 vaccination.

4. A different dosage of the COVID-19 vaccine is given to children.

The COVID-19 vaccine for children has the same [active ingredients](#) as the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine given to people ages 12 years and older. However, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for teens and adults **cannot** be given to children ages 5 through 11 years.

Children receive a smaller dose of COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 vaccine dosage is based on **age on the day of vaccination**, not by patient weight. This is also true for other routinely recommended vaccines, like hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccines.

Learn more about [COVID-19 vaccine dosage for children](#).



5. Children who have already had COVID-19 should still get vaccinated.

Emerging [evidence](#) indicates that people can get added protection by getting vaccinated after they have been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 after getting their first shot, they should wait until their [isolation period](#) has ended before getting their second shot. The second dose is recommended **at least 4 weeks** after the first dose. For children 12 years and older without a weakened immune system, the time between doses 1 and 2 can be up to 8 weeks.



6. Children can safely receive other vaccines the same day they receive their COVID-19 vaccine.

Routine vaccination is an important preventive care service that should not be delayed.

If multiple vaccines are given at a single visit, each injection will be given in a different injection site, [according to recommendations](#) by age.



COVID-19 vaccines are accessible and can be found in a variety of locations

- The federal government is providing COVID-19 vaccines **free of charge** to everyone living in the United States, regardless of their immigration or health insurance status.
- Check with your child's healthcare provider about whether they offer COVID-19 vaccination.
- Contact your [state, territorial, local](#) [link](#), or [tribal health department](#) for more information.
- Check your local pharmacy's website to see if vaccination walk-ins or appointments are available for children.
- Search [vaccines.gov](#), text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find locations near you that may be offering vaccines for children.
- COVID-19 Vaccine Disability Information and Access Line (DIAL)
 - Call 888-677-1199 Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (EST) or email DIAL@usaginganddisability.org to help:
 - Find local vaccination locations
 - Make appointments
 - Connect to local services such as accessible transportation



Additional Information:

[COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#)

[About the COVID-19 Vaccine: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
[link](#) (American Academy of Pediatrics)

[Understanding How mRNA Vaccines Work](#)

[The Science Behind the COVID-19 Vaccine: Parent FAQs](#) [link](#)
(HealthyChildren.org)

[Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination for Children](#)

[\(VIDEO\) COVID-19 and Kids: How mRNA Vaccines Work](#)