



COVID-19 Vaccine Side Effects in Children and Teens

Updated June 19, 2022

What You Need to Know

- Children and teens may have some [side effects after getting their COVID-19 vaccine](#).
- These side effects tend to be mild, temporary, and similar to those experienced after routine vaccinations.
- Some children and teens have no side effects.
- Serious side effects are rare, but may occur.

Common COVID-19 Vaccine Side Effects

Younger children may experience fewer side effects after COVID-19 vaccination than teens or young adults. For **children 4 years and older**, side effects are more common after the second dose and can include:

- Pain, swelling, and redness in the arm where the shot was given
- Fever
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Chills
- Muscle or joint pain
- Swollen lymph nodes

For children 3 years and younger, common side effects can include:

- Pain where the shot was given
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Irritability or crying
- Sleepiness
- Loss of appetite

Possible Side Effects after Booster Shot

Side effects reported after getting a Pfizer-BioNTech booster shot for children 5 years and older were similar to those after the primary series (the initial two doses). Overall, most side effects were mild to moderate. 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

In general, aspirin is **not recommended** for use in anyone younger than 18 years. 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 where the shot was given can help reduce the 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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