



## Vaccines & Immunizations

# 6 Things to Know about COVID-19 Vaccination for Children

Information for parents and caregivers of children ages 6 months and older



For the best protection, CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccines for everyone 6 months and older and [boosters](#) for everyone 5 years and older, if eligible.

## 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 COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective for everyone 6 months and older.

Ongoing safety monitoring shows that COVID-19 vaccination continues to be safe for children. The known risks of COVID-19 and possible severe complications outweigh the potential risks of having a rare, adverse reaction to vaccination.

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.

- Give parents greater confidence for children to participate in childcare and school and 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 mild, temporary and like those experienced after routine vaccines. 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. Children receive a smaller dose of COVID-19 vaccine than teens and adults.

COVID-19 vaccine dosage is based on **age on the day of vaccination**, not on a child's size or weight. This is also true for other routinely recommended vaccines, like hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccines.



#### Tips for Parents and Caregivers:

- 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. For children who have been infected, their next dose can be delayed 3 months from when symptoms started or, if they did not have symptoms, when they received a positive test.

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.



## 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 icon](#), 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 Information for Children with Disabilities

- [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children and Teens with Disabilities](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Disability Information and Access Line \(DIAL\)](#) [link icon](#)



- Call 888-677-1199 Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (EST) or email [DIAL@usaginganddisability.org](mailto:DIAL@usaginganddisability.org) to help:
  - Find local vaccination locations
  - Make appointments
  - Connect to local services such as accessible transportation

Additional Information:

[Find COVID-19 Vaccines or Boosters Near You](#)

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

[Understanding How mRNA Vaccines Work](#)

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

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

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

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