

COVID-19 Children's Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions

The FDA and CDC authorized the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for anyone 5 and older. COVID-19 vaccines are FREE to anyone who lives in the U.S. even if you don't have health insurance or are not a U.S. citizen. The Pfizer vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine authorized for children at this time. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are authorized for people ages 18 and older. COVID-19 vaccines are not only effective at preventing sickness, hospitalization, and death but will help us return to our normal activities. The vaccines work against the new variants of the virus identified so far. People who choose to get vaccinated not only protect themselves from the virus, but also help protect people they care about such as grandparents, teachers, and siblings who are immunocompromised.

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Source Coronavirus.Utah.gov/Vaccine

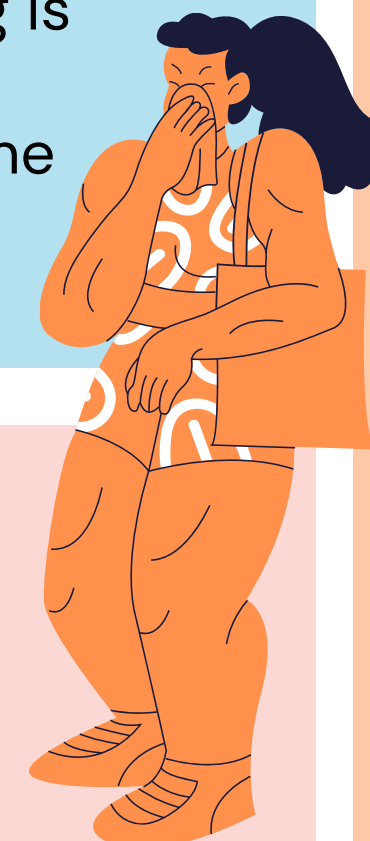
Why do children need to get vaccinated?

Children are infected with the virus at rates similar to adults and some children do get sick enough to require treatment in the hospital.

More than 600 children in the U.S. have died from COVID-19. The virus is a top 10 cause of death for children in the U.S.

Severe or serious side effects.

Anaphylaxis, or an allergic reaction to the vaccine are rare. These types of reactions almost always happen within 30 minutes after getting the vaccine. Children might have trouble breathing, swelling in their face or throat, a rash on their body, or dizziness and weakness. This is why it is important to stay 15-30 minutes after getting vaccinated so medical staff can make sure everything is okay. Anyone who had a anaphylactic reaction after the 1st dose of the vaccine should not get the 2nd dose.



What if my child already had COVID-19?

It is recommended that your child get vaccinated even if they have had COVID-19 before. Vaccination is a much safer and effective way to develop immunity than having COVID-19 as a disease. It is estimated that only 43% of children in the U.S. younger than 12 years old have some natural immunity.

Are their side effects?

It is normal to get side effects after getting a vaccine, like a fever or sore arm. Severe side effects are rare. Children might feel sick for a few days after vaccination. Some children have no side effects. Common side effects might be chills, diarrhea, fever, headache, nausea, or tiredness.

Age and Doses.

Vaccine doses for children ages 5-11 are different than adult and teen doses. The children's vaccine is a 2-dose series, 3 weeks apart. Vaccine qualifications are based on the child's age, not weight. If your child turns 12 between their 1st and 2nd dose, they should get the child dosage for their 1st shot and the adult dosage for the 2nd shot.

Who SHOULD NOT get the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine?

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and safe for people 5 years of age and older. Your child should not get the vaccine if they:

- Had a severe allergic reaction or immediate allergic reaction after their 1st dose of the vaccine.
- Had a severe allergic reaction even if it was not severe to any ingredient in the vaccine. (mRNA, Lipids/fats, Sugar and acid stabilizers)

Your child can get vaccinated even if they have a history of allergic reactions not related to vaccines or injectable medications like food, pets, venom, environmental, or latex. They can also get vaccinated if they have a history of allergies to oral medications or a family history of severe allergic reactions.

What is Myocarditis?

Myocarditis is swelling and inflammation of the heart muscle or pericarditis, inflammation of the membrane surrounding the heart after mRNA(Pfizer) vaccines. You usually see this after the 2nd dose, most likely to happen in males 12–17 years old.

This is a serious health conditions, but can be treated. Most patients with myocarditis or pericarditis respond well to medicine and rest and feel better quickly.

Myocarditis is very rare after a vaccination, about 54 cases per 1 million doses.

Symptoms of myocarditis usually appear within 7 days of a vaccination. Symptoms can be chest pain, shortness of breath, or feelings of a fast or pounding heart. No myocarditis deaths have been linked to vaccinations in the U.S. but it is a side effect you should watch for in your children.

Have COVID–19 vaccines caused fertility issues?

There is no data showing vaccines cause infertility or miscarriages. Many reputable medical organizations recommend pregnant women get vaccinated for COVID–19. It is safe to get vaccinated during pregnancy and while breastfeeding. Pregnant people have an increased risk for severe illness and should talk to their doctor before getting the COVID–19 vaccine.

Has the COVID–19 vaccine caused any deaths?

There have been no deaths directly caused by the vaccines. Out of more than 423 million doses of the vaccine administered in the U.S from December 2020 to November 2021, there have been 9,367 reports of death from people who got a COVID–19 vaccine. The FDA requires medical providers to report all deaths after COVID–19 vaccinations, even if the vaccine wasn't the cause of death. There have been no deaths from any side effects, even rare ones, from the Pfizer and Moderna COVID–19 vaccines.

Can my child get other vaccines at the same time as the COVID–19 vaccine?

Yes! It is a good time to make sure you and your child are up to date on other vaccinations at the same time as your COVID–19 vaccination. Ask your child's doctor about side effects of each vaccine, so you know what to watch for. Your child might experience side effects from both or multiple vaccines at the same time.

We don't know long term impact.

Many people, including children who have had COVID–19 continue to have symptoms after they were first infected. Children report symptoms that impact their daily life for weeks after being infected, even if they weren't very sick while they had COVID–19. Children may suffer from fatigue, headaches, abdominal pain, muscle and joint pain, and memory and processing difficulty.

When should you call your child's doctor?

Most side effects will go away in a day or two. But you should call a doctor if –

- Redness/Tenderness where your child got a shot gets worse after 24 hours
- Your child has unusual symptoms or a combination of side effects from getting more than one vaccine at the same time (It is safe to get a COVID–19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccinations!)
- If you are worried your child's side effects don't seem to be going away after a few days.



Should I report any side effects my child has after getting a COVID–19 vaccine?

You can report you and your child's side effects after getting vaccinated to the CDC's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). You can also ask your doctor to report to VAERS for you. The CDC reporting system helps scientists and medical experts quickly detect unusual or unexpected patterns of health problems that might show a safety problem with a vaccine.