

Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Facts



We are confident that the COVID-19 vaccine is our best chance at controlling this devastating pandemic. We hope having trusted information about the vaccine will help you feel equally confident about getting your children vaccinated. Please reach out to your child's provider's office if you have any questions about the COVID-19 vaccine.

▶ **1. Why should my child be vaccinated for COVID-19?**

The vaccine will help protect your child from getting COVID-19. If they still become infected after getting vaccinated, the vaccine may prevent severe symptoms. Vaccines will help us control the pandemic so children can safely go to school, socialize, and participate in the activities that are vital for their development and well-being.

▶ **2. How is the COVID-19 vaccination different for children younger than 12?**

Children ages 5-11 receive a smaller dose of the Pfizer vaccine than those over age 12. The dose is one-third of that used in teens and adults. It is also administered using smaller needles.

▶ **3. Is the vaccine safe and effective for children?**

Yes. The Pfizer vaccine was studied in a clinical trial of more than 2,200 children ages 5-11. The vaccine was 90.7% effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 infection in children. While children may experience temporary side effects after vaccination, they are much less severe than the potentially severe symptoms of COVID-19.

▶ **4. What side effects might my child experience after getting vaccinated?**

The side effects included redness and swelling at the injection site, fatigue, headache, muscle and/or joint pain, chills, fever, swollen lymph nodes, nausea, and decreased appetite. These side effects are normal and indicate that the immune system is doing its job. Side effects affecting the heart, which have been observed in some adolescent boys who received the vaccine, were not seen in children younger than 12 in the clinical trial.

▶ **5. If my child already had COVID-19 and recovered, do they still need to be vaccinated?**

Yes. CDC recommends that you get vaccinated even if you have already had COVID-19, because you can catch it more than once. While you may have some short-term antibody protection after recovering from COVID-19, we don't know how long this protection will last.

▶ **6. Is it safe for my child to get a COVID-19 vaccine if they have an underlying medical condition?**

Yes. COVID-19 vaccination is especially important for children with underlying health problems like asthma, type 1 diabetes, obesity, and other medical complexities. Children with these conditions are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19. Please speak with your child's healthcare provider if you have questions about their specific condition(s).

More information is also available at solutionhealth.org/covidvaccine

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/children-teens.html>

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-authorizes-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-emergency-use-children-5-through-11-years-age>



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