What should you know about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines for your teenagers?

Catching COVID-19 can be very bad for your children.

Pfizer’s and Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccines are safe for people 12-17 years old.

The COVID-19 vaccine protects your teens from getting very sick from COVID-19.

Catching COVID-19 can be very bad for your child if they haven’t gotten a COVID-19 vaccine yet.

Being young and healthy doesn’t make your child immune to COVID-19. Young people who catch the virus can still get very sick or even die from the disease.

Compared to those who got a vaccine, Teens without a vaccine were nearly 2 times more likely to need the hospital if they caught COVID-19.

Compared to those who got a vaccine and a booster shot, Teens without a vaccine were nearly 3 times more likely to need the hospital if they caught COVID-19.

The benefits of COVID-19 vaccines outweigh the known and possible risks, including the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis (inflamed heart tissue).

You can protect yourself, your loved ones, and your family by getting your teen a COVID-19 vaccine.
In very rare cases, tissue around the heart might become inflamed after getting a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine. This “myocarditis” or “pericarditis” has been most common in males from 12 to 17 years old after their 2nd dose. This might sound scary, but know that:

These cases are very rare. The risk may be lowered by waiting 8 weeks between the 1st and 2nd doses. Most cases are minor. Doctors can treat it with anti-inflammatory medicines or a prescription. It can even get better on its own. Patients often return to their daily activities after their symptoms improve. There is a higher chance of getting heart inflammation from a COVID-19 infection than from a COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 infection causes myocarditis/pericarditis in about 1% of children, and their recovery time is much longer.