

## What should you know about COVID-19 vaccines for your children?



Getting COVID-19 can be **dangerous** for your children.



Pfizer's COVID-19 pediatric vaccine and booster shot are **safe for children** in these age groups.



This vaccine helps **protect your kids** from getting very sick from COVID-19.

## Benefits of COVID-19 Vaccines in Children

- Lowers their chances of catching COVID-19
- Helps protect them against severe illness, death, and long COVID
- Might make them less likely to spread COVID-19 to others
- Protects them more so they can stay safe in school and in public

## What should you do before getting your child a COVID-19 vaccine?

- Don't give them acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen before they get their shot.
- Tell the healthcare worker if your child has any allergies or a history of bad reactions.
- Wait at the vaccine center for 15-30 minutes after getting the shot
- Talk to your child's doctor about vaccine side effects. Your child may get tired, a headache, chills, a fever, or a sore arm after they take the shot. These should go away in 2-3 days.

**You can protect your family, your loved ones, and yourself by getting your child a COVID-19 vaccine.**

Disclaimer: This project was funded in whole by a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant number 6 NU50CK000588-02-02. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents of this resource center do not necessarily represent the policy of CDC or HHS and should not be considered an endorsement by the Federal Government.

# COVID-19 Vaccine Answers for



## Parents of Children from 5 to 11

 **americares**

Does my child need the COVID-19 vaccine? Why?

**YES!**

COVID-19 vaccines help protect children **5 years and older** against the virus. This vaccine also helps keep them from getting very sick if they do catch the virus.

Which COVID-19 vaccine can my child get?

If your child is between 5 and 11 years old, then they can get the **Pfizer or Moderna vaccine**. These versions of both vaccines use a smaller dose than the one used for adults.

Children should receive the right vaccine for their age. Their size or weight doesn't matter. Vaccine doses are based on age, not size or weight.

If they get a **Pfizer primary series**, they should get a booster shot of the Pfizer vaccine **5 months** after the 2nd dose.

How does the COVID-19 vaccine affect my child's regular vaccine schedule?

**It doesn't.** Your child can receive the COVID-19 vaccine along with other vaccines. But, your child does not have to get more than one vaccine in a single visit. Talk to your child's doctor if you have questions about your child's vaccine schedule.

## 5 things you should know about COVID-19 vaccines for children

- 1. COVID-19 vaccines are safe for children.** COVID-19 vaccines have gone through the most thorough safety review in U.S. history.
- 2. Vaccines can help protect children against COVID-19.** COVID-19 vaccines continue to protect children against getting very sick or even dying from COVID-19.
- 3. Children may have some side effects from the vaccine.** It is normal for your child to feel some side effects. These are signs that the vaccine is doing its job. They should go away in 2-3 days.
- 4. Children get a smaller dose of the vaccine than adults.** Vaccine doses are based on age, not size or weight.
- 5. Children who have already had COVID-19 should still get a vaccine.** The vaccine offers extra defense even if they have already had the disease. They can get a vaccine as soon as they finish isolation.

Plan to get their COVID-19 vaccine at [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov).

## Getting COVID-19 can be unsafe for your child if they have not received a COVID-19 vaccine.

Being young and healthy does not make your child immune to COVID-19. Young people who get the virus can become very sick or even die from the disease.



1 out of 3 children aged 5 to 11 who go to the hospital from COVID-19 need the intensive care unit.

The COVID-19 virus can also pose long-term problems for kids such as **(MIS-C)**—a condition where some of their body parts get inflamed. Many children with MIS-C had COVID-19 or had been around someone with COVID-19. MIS-C is more common among children aged 5 to 11 years old.

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

The vaccine helps prevent:



- Children from getting COVID-19,
- Short- and long-term health problems from COVID-19, and
- The spread of COVID-19