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 5 NU50CK000588-03-00. 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 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.

They should get a bivalent booster shot of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least 2 months later.

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.

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.

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

Plan to get their COVID-19 vaccine at www.vaccines.gov.