FAQS: COVID-19 VACCINE FOR CHILDREN

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for children?

The COVID-19 vaccine had to meet high standards for safety and effectiveness to be authorized by the FDA. COVID-19 vaccines have been given safely to millions of people, and have been closely studied and monitored. Data shows **they are safe and highly effective** at preventing illness.

Does emergency use authorization mean the COVID-19 vaccine is not thoroughly tested?

Currently, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has emergency use authorization (EUA) for ages 5-15 and full FDA approval for those 16 years and older. This does not mean that the vaccine was not thoroughly tested in children and teens under 16. The FDA closely reviewed safety and efficacy data on the COVID-19 vaccine before authorizing its use in children.

How effective is the COVID-19 vaccine in children?

In clinical trials for children ages 5-11, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was 90.7% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19. Among 12-18 year-olds, the Pfizer vaccine has been 93% effective at preventing hospitalizations. Unvaccinated adolescents are 10x more likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19 than their vaccinated peers.

Why should I vaccinate my child for COVID-19 if their risk of serious illness is low?

While the risk of severe COVID-19 in children is lower compared to adults, that risk is not zero. The arrival of the highly contagious Delta variant showed that children can and do get sick from COVID-19. In addition to protecting their health, vaccinating children is key to protecting others.

- As of mid-October 2021, nearly **6.2 million children** in the U.S. have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Since the rise of the Delta variant, there was a **5x increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations** among children and teens.
- Children with even mild symptoms may be at risk for rare long-term side effects. As of mid-October 2021, more than 5,000 children have been diagnosed with multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) after COVID-19.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine for children the same vaccine as for teens and adults?

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for younger children is the same vaccine as for teens and adults, but it is given in a smaller dose. This smaller dose is due to the development of a child's immune system, not based on a child's size or weight.

Will my child experience any side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine?

Your child may experience some side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine. Side effects are typically mild and are normal signs that the vaccine is building protection against COVID-19.

Possible COVID-19 vaccine side effects in children include:

- Pain, redness or swelling at the injection site
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Chills
- Fever
- Nausea

Contact your child's health care provider if:

- The redness or pain at the injection site gets worse after 24 hours
- Their side effects are worrying you or do not go away after a few days

Seek immediate medical attention if your child shows signs of a severe allergic reaction to the vaccine, such as rapid heartbeat, swelling of the throat, rash or hives. This reaction is extremely rare.

Could there be any long-term effects of the COVID-19 vaccine for children?

There is no evidence of any long-term effects of the COVID-19 vaccine in children. The COVID-19 vaccines have been safely given to millions of people over the age of 12. The FDA required the COVID-19 vaccine be studied for at least 8 weeks after the final dose to ensure its safety, and the vaccine will continue to undergo intense safety monitoring.

Does the COVID-19 vaccine cause heart problems?

One side effect that parents may have heard about is the chance of heart inflammation, or myocarditis. This is very rare and cases have been mild. People are more likely to experience myocarditis after COVID-19 illness than vaccination.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine impact a child's fertility?

Parents may have heard misinformation about COVID-19 vaccine affecting fertility. There is no evidence to support this myth. Experts will continue to monitor the COVID-19 vaccine to ensure it is safe and effective.

Should my child get the COVID-19 vaccine if they have a medical condition?

Yes, the COVID-19 vaccine is safe and recommended for children with chronic or underlying medical conditions.

Should my child get vaccinated if they've already had COVID-19?

Your child should get the COVID-19 vaccine even if they already had COVID-19. Studies have shown that the vaccines can trigger a COVID-19 immune response stronger than the one naturally present in people who had COVID-19.

Will my child need a COVID-19 booster shot or a shot annually?

It is not yet known if children will need to get a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot. Experts will continue to monitor how long the vaccine is effective and how well it is working against COVID-19 variants. Booster shots are currently available for certain groups of adults.

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

Your child can get the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other routine vaccinations. Talk with your child's health care provider if you have any questions about your child's vaccine schedule.

Scan the QR code or visit **childrens.com/vaccine** to learn more and see vaccine locations.

Learn more at childrens.com/vaccine

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