Why should we vaccinate children?

Some children get very sick from coronavirus. COVID-19 is a leading cause of death in children. It is #1 in deaths caused by infections/respiratory diseases. Thousands of children have been hospitalized for COVID-19. Most were not vaccinated. About 1/3 had no preexisting condition like diabetes or obesity.

Most children don't become as sick as adults, **but they can still spread it.** COVID-19 vaccines prevent grandparents, younger siblings, and others from severe disease, hospitalization, and death.

Getting kids vaccinated helps **prevent outbreaks that cause school closures**.

Is the vaccine safe for children?

As of June 2022, 8.5 million children under 12 have been fully vaccinated in the US (that is 30% of that population in the US). Nearly 60% of children 12-17 are fully vaccinated. Not one child has died due to the vaccine.

Risks from COVID-19 greatly outweigh any potential risks from the vaccine.

How do we keep children under six months old safe?

Currently, there is not an approved COVID-19 vaccine for children under 6 months old. But you can protect children from being infected and spreading the virus to others.

+ Ensure all household members aged 6+ months are vaccinated.

+ Breastfeeding moms can get vaccinated to help pass antibodies to their baby.

+ Encourage **indoor mask wearing** and **social distancing** especially among the unvaccinated.

+ Wash hands.

HOW CAN I GET MY CHILD A COVID-19 VACCINE?

✓ **Contact your local health department to make an appointment** or ask them where mobile vaccine clinics are located.

✓ **Contact your local community health center to make an appointment**.

✓ **Ask your child's pediatrician** if they offer COVID-19 vaccines.

✓ **Check with your local pharmacy.** They will likely offer vaccines.

✓ **Speak with your child's school** about getting a COVID-19 vaccine. They may offer in-school vaccine clinics.

✓ In some places, parents are required to be present when their child is vaccinated. Look for after-hour and pop-up clinics to make it easier for working parents.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

For answers to Frequently Asked Questions, visit **Migrant Clinicians Network** (MCN):
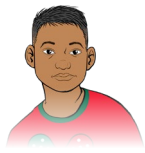https://bit.ly/3ki1xAI

Updated: October 11, 2022

Children and the COVID-19 Vaccine

✓ **GET VACCINATED!**
✓ **Wear a mask**
✓ **Social distancing**
✓ **Wash your hands**

COVID-19 Vaccine Awareness Campaign

COVID-19 VACCINES FOR CHILDREN

- **Children 6 mos. to 4 yrs:** 3 doses for Pfizer, 2 doses for Moderna. No booster at this time.
- **Children 5-17:** 2 doses, 1 booster*.
- **Immunocompromised children:**
  5-17: 3 doses, 1 booster*.
- **Spacing between doses varies, but for boys 12-17:** 2 doses, 8 weeks apart.** Visit the CDC's page for spacing: https://bit.ly/3zcBgwT

* Moderna's booster is approved for ages 6+ only.

** The CDC recommends this altered schedule to reduce the very small risk of myocarditis among adolescent boys.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN

- Get vaccinated and get your children who are 6 months and older vaccinated.
- Wear a mask when indoors even when you are up to date on your vaccines.
- If your child is up to date on their vaccines and are exposed to COVID-19:
  - If they have symptoms: Test immediately. If they have a negative test, test again in 48 hours.
  - If they do not have symptoms: Test at least 5 days after exposure. If they have a negative test, test again after 48 hours, and then again after another 48 hours if their second results are negative. Get medical advice if you think they are ill.
- Regardless of vaccination status, if your child has COVID-19, they must isolate. See CDC guidelines for how to isolate.

For women:

- For women of any age who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or trying to get pregnant, vaccines are critical for keeping moms and their babies healthy.
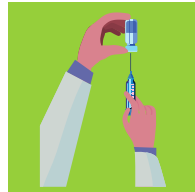- For adults and teens between 18-60 years old, we recommend getting Pfizer or Moderna.

WHAT TO KNOW WHEN CHILDREN ARE GETTING THE COVID-19 VACCINE
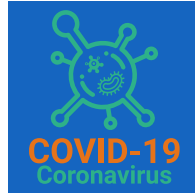
It is important for children to get vaccinated, even if they've had COVID-19.
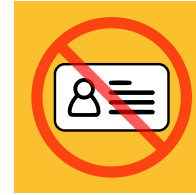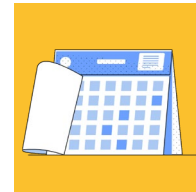
It does NOT require any form of identification.

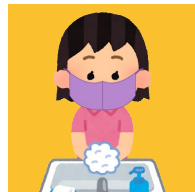**The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective for children.**

After vaccination kids may experience: arm pain, headache, fever, or chills.

They feel better a few days after the injection.

Kids are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their final dose.

Continue to wear a mask in crowded spaces and wash your hands.

Getting vaccinated helps protects kids and others from getting very sick from COVID-19!

BENEFITS OF VACCINATION

- ✓ Vaccination protects children and their families from becoming seriously ill and being hospitalized.
- ✓ Vaccination decreases the number of severe and deadly COVID-19 cases in your community.
- ✓ Vaccination protects hospitals and clinicians from being overwhelmed with severely ill COVID-19 patients.
- ✓ The more vaccinated individuals in our community, the less we need to worry about new variants.

RISKS FOR UNVACCINATED

- X Higher risk of COVID-19 infection.
- X Higher risk of serious infection, hospitalization, and death.
- X Higher risk of developing long-term symptoms of COVID-19 if infected.
- X Higher risk of being exposed to new forms of the virus that are more contagious and dangerous.