

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 children don't become as sick as adults, **but they can still spread the virus.** The COVID-19 vaccine prevents 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 May 2023, over 32% of children in the US 5-11, and 59% of children 12-17 have received their primary series.

Many children have also received an updated bivalent dose.

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?

The vaccine is free for most people, including those without insurance.

Check to see where to access the COVID vaccine for free:

- ✓ **Ask about mobile clinics and health fairs**
- ✓ **Health department**
- ✓ **Community health center**
- ✓ **Pharmacies near you**
- ✓ **Ask your child's pediatrician** if they offer COVID-19 vaccines.
- ✓ **Speak with your child's school** about getting the 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.
- ✓ Find vaccines: <https://www.vaccines.gov/search/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>



For answers to Frequently Asked Questions, visit **Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN)**:
<https://bit.ly/3ki1xAl>



Updated: September 19, 2023



Children and the COVID-19 Vaccine

Get An Updated COVID Vaccine

COVID-19 Vaccine Awareness Campaign



COVID-19 VACCINES FOR CHILDREN

- **Vaccinated Children 6 mos. through 4 yrs:** Number of doses and timing varies. Ask child's healthcare provider for recommendations.
- **Unvaccinated Children 6 mos. Through 4 yrs:** 3 doses of Pfizer or 2 doses of Moderna.
- **Children 5 yrs and older:** 1 Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, regardless of previous vaccination. If previously vaccinated, child must wait 2 months for the updated vaccine.
- **Immunocompromised children:** Ask child's healthcare provider for dose recommendations.
- **Spacing between doses varies, by age:** Ask child's healthcare provider. Visit the CDC's page for spacing: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN

- + Get vaccinated and get your children who are 6 months and older vaccinated.
- + Wear a mask in crowded indoor spaces even when you are up to date on your vaccines.
- + **If your child was exposed to COVID-19, follow these steps, even if they are vaccinated:**
 - **Ages 2 and up:** Wear a mask or respirator for 10 days.
 - **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.
 - **If you have a positive test,** see CDC guidelines for how to isolate.

Recommendations:

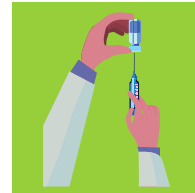
- + For women of any age who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or trying to get pregnant, vaccines are critical for keeping moms and their babies healthy.



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.



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



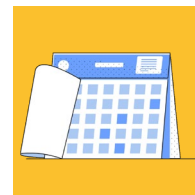
Check where vaccines are offered for free at your state or local health department, pharmacy, or health center.



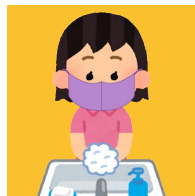
After vaccination kids may experience: arm pain, headache, fever, or chills.



They feel better a few days after the injection.



Kids are considered up to date once they receive their final dose or doses.



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



Getting vaccinated helps protect 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

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