

COVID-19 Vaccines for Children Ages 5-11

Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Caregivers



Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for children?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccines have been thoroughly tested and reviewed. Hundreds of millions of adults and teenagers have been safely vaccinated in the U.S. Data from clinical trials show that the vaccine is safe for children 5-11.



Is it effective?

Yes. The vaccine is over 90% effective at preventing COVID-19 in children 5-11.

The vaccine is FREE, available regardless of immigration status, and you do not need insurance or ID.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine for children different than the one for adults?

Only the Pfizer vaccine is now approved for children. It has the same mRNA material, but children get a smaller dose. Children need 2 doses at least 3 weeks apart for full protection just like adults.



What are the benefits of children receiving the vaccine?

Children can become severely ill and die from COVID-19. Vaccinated children are much less likely to get sick. This means they are less likely to miss school, sports, and social activities. The more people who are vaccinated, the less likely that COVID-19 spreads, making everyone safer.



If my child had COVID-19, do they still need the vaccine?

Yes. Doctors and scientists recommend that children 5 and up get vaccinated even if they've had COVID-19 to ensure the best protection. Talk with your child's doctor about the timing of receiving the vaccine after COVID-19 infection.

Should children with underlying health conditions or allergic reactions be vaccinated?

Yes. Many underlying conditions increase the risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Allergic reactions to COVID-19 vaccines are rare. However, you should discuss these concerns with the child's doctor before getting the vaccine.

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Where can my child get vaccinated?

Appointments can be made through MyTurn.ca.gov or your child's doctor. Public health encourages parents to visit their family doctor to ensure their children are up to date on all healthcare needs.



What should I bring to the appointment?

Bring your child's yellow childhood immunization card if you have one. It will get updated.

Do I need to provide consent or be present?

Children 5 and older need the consent of a parent or legal guardian. Check with your healthcare provider on acceptable forms of consent, such as in-person, a signed note, or a phone call.

Will my child experience side effects?

Your child may have minor side effects, such as a sore arm, headache, fatigue, or slight fever. These are normal signs that their body is building protection and should go away in a few days. Serious side effects, such as myocarditis (inflammation of the heart), are rare and treatable. Your child is at much greater risk of getting myocarditis from COVID-19 than they are from getting it from the vaccine.

Can the vaccine affect my child's development or fertility?

There is no evidence that any vaccine, including those for COVID-19, cause fertility problems. No concerns about growth or development have been identified.

The CDC recommends that all children ages 5-11 receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

This document is based on information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/children-teens.html>
<https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/>