



6 Things to Know about COVID-19 Vaccination

Information for parents and caregivers of children ages 5 years and older

1. COVID-19 vaccination for children is safe.

Before recommending COVID-19 vaccination for children, scientists conducted clinical trials. Then, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determined the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective, and authorized it for emergency use in children. Ongoing safety monitoring shows that COVID-19 vaccination continues to be safe for children and that **the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks.**

2. Getting vaccinated can help protect children against COVID-19.

Vaccinating children can: Prevent children from getting seriously sick if they do get COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccination continues to protect children against severe disease, including hospitalization. There is no way to tell in advance how children will be affected by COVID-19. Children with underlying medical conditions are more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19. However, healthy children without underlying medical conditions can also experience severe illness.

Keep children safely in childcare and school and participating in sports, playdates, extracurricular activities, and other group activities.

3. Children may have some side effects after COVID-19 vaccination.

Reported side effects are like those experienced after routine vaccines. Side effects may affect your child's ability to do daily activities, but they should go away within a few days. Side effects are more common after the second shot. Some children have no side effects.

A review of vaccine safety data for **children ages 5 through 11 years** found that side effects most commonly reported after getting vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine were **mild and brief**. These side effects were more common after the second dose and include: Headache, Pain in the arm where the shot was given and tiredness.

For children and teens ages 12 through 17 years, the most commonly reported side effects after getting the first two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine are: Tiredness, Fever, Headache, Pain in the arm where the shot was given.

4. A different dosage of the COVID-19 vaccine is given to children.

The COVID-19 vaccine for children has the same active ingredients as the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine given to people ages 12 years and older. However, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for teens and adults **cannot** be given to children ages 5 through 11 years.

Children receive a smaller dose of COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 vaccine dosage is based on **age on the day of vaccination**, not by patient weight. This is also true for other routinely recommended vaccines, like hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccines.

5. Children who have already had COVID-19 should still get vaccinated.

Emerging evidence indicates that people can get added protection by getting vaccinated after they have been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 after getting their first shot, they should wait until their isolation period has ended before getting their second shot. The second dose is recommended at least 3 weeks after the first dose. For children 12 years and older without a weakened immune system, the time between doses 1 and 2 can be up to 8 weeks.

6. Children can safely receive other vaccines the same day they receive their COVID-19 vaccine.

Routine vaccination is an important preventive care service that should not be delayed.

If multiple vaccines are given at a single visit, each injection will be given in a different injection site, according to recommendations by age.

COVID-19 vaccines are accessible and can be found in a variety of locations

*The federal government is providing COVID-19 vaccines **free of charge** to everyone living in the United States, regardless of their immigration or health insurance status.

*Check with your child's healthcare provider about whether they offer COVID-19 vaccination.

*Contact ND Department of Health Covid Vaccine locator at <https://www.health.nd.gov/covid-vaccine-locator>

*Check your local pharmacy's website to see if vaccination walk-ins or appointments are available for children.

*Search [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find locations near you that may be offering vaccines for children.

- **Contact us at Family Voices of North Dakota to help you at 888-522-9654**