

COVID-19 Vaccines for Children

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. Millions of children and teens ages 5 through 17 years have been safely vaccinated in the U.S. Data from clinical trials show that the vaccine is safe for children 6 months and older.



Is it effective?

Yes. The vaccine is effective at preventing severe illness and hospitalization due to COVID-19 in children.

The vaccine is 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?

It has the same mRNA material, but children get a smaller dose of the vaccine than teens and adults. Children get a dose that is the right amount for their age group.



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 severely sick if they do get COVID-19. Vaccinating children can provide parents with greater confidence for children to participate in childcare and school and other group activities.



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

Yes. Doctors and scientists recommend that children 6 months and older 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 your child's doctor or MyTurn.ca.gov. Public health encourages parents to visit their family doctor to ensure their children are up to date on all healthcare needs and other routine vaccines.



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 6 months 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 6 months and older 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/>