COVID-19 Vaccine
Q & A for Children and Teens

CDC Recommends vaccination for everyone 12 years and older to help protect against COVID-19.

Why does my child need a COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccines help protect kids from getting COVID-19. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine will also help keep them from getting seriously ill even if they do get COVID-19.

When should my child be vaccinated?

All children who are 12 years and older should get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. If your child hasn't gotten their vaccine yet, talk to their healthcare provider and find a COVID-19 vaccine clinic near you.

Are COVID-19 vaccines safe for my child?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccination provides safe and effective protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines are being used under the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history.

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is100% effective at preventing COVID-19 symptoms in children 12 through 15 years old. Children's immune systems responded to the vaccine in a way similar to that of older teens and young adults. To get the most protection, your child will need 2 shots given 3 weeks (21 days) apart.

Before, during and after your child's vaccination

- Tell your healthcare provider about any allergies your child may have.
- Comfort your child during the appointment .
- To prevent fainting and injuries related to fainting, your child should be seated or lying down during vaccination.
- After your child's COVID-19 vaccination, you will be asked to stay for 15-30 minutes so your child can be observed.

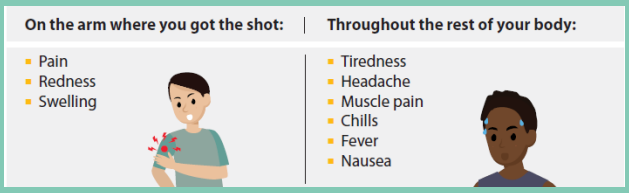
Can my child get a COVID-19 vaccine during the same visit with other vaccines?

Yes. Your child can get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines at the same visit. Experience with other vaccines has shown that the way our bodies develop protection after getting vaccinated (immune response) and possible side effects of vaccines are generally the same when given alone or with other vaccines. Talk with your healthcare provider to learn more.

What are the side effects?

Your child may have some side effects, which are normal signs that their body is building protection. These side effects may affect your child's ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in 24-48 hours. Some people have no side effects. Side effects from the second shot may be more evident than after the first shot.

Possible side effects after COVID-19 vaccination include:



The benefits of COVID-19 vaccination far outweigh any potential risk of side effects. COVID-19 vaccination will help protect your child from getting COVID-19.

Contact your child's healthcare provider:

- If the redness or tenderness where the shot is gets worse after 24 hours.
- If the side effects are worrying you or do not seem to be going away after a few days.

Long-Term Side Effects Are Unlikely:

Serious side effects that could cause a long-term health problem are extremely unlikely following any vaccination, including COVID-19 vaccination. Side effects generally happen within six weeks. For this reason, the FDA required authorized COVID-19 vaccines to be studied for at least eight weeks after the final dose.

Myocarditis and Pericarditis Following mRNA COVID-19

What you need to know

- Myocarditis is inflammation of the heart muscle, and pericarditis is inflammation of the outer lining of the heart. In both cases, the body's immune system causes inflammation in response to an infection or some other trigger.
- **Reports of myocarditis and pericarditis are rare and the known and potential benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks.**
- Confirmed cases have occurred:
  -Mostly in male adolescents and young adults age 16 years or older
  -More often after getting the second dose than after the first dose.
  -Typically within several days after COVID-19 vaccination
- Patients can usually return to their normal daily activities after their symptoms improve. They should speak with their healthcare provider about returning to exercise or sports.

mRNA and Emergency Use Authorization

What you need to know:

- mRNA vaccines have been studied by vaccine research scientists for decades.
- The FDA decision to issue an EUA for COVID-19 vaccine is based on scientific evidence which shows it is effective in preventing COVID-19 disease
- COVID-19 vaccines save lives and stop transmission

Where can I learn more?

Visit www.horizonpublichealth.org
Minnesota Department of Health/COVID-19
Centers of Disease Control and Prevention/COVID-19

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