

## 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/3ki1xAI>



**Updated: October 5, 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](http://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: Isolate. Test immediately.
  - If they don't have symptoms: Test at least 5 full days after exposure. If you are positive, isolate!
  - If they have a positive test or have symptoms, see CDC guidelines for how to isolate.

### Recommendations:

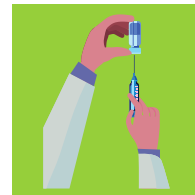
- + For women of any age who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or trying to get pregnant, vaccines are critical for keeping moms and their babies healthy.



## 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.



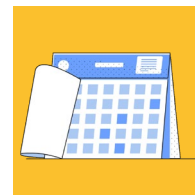
Check where vaccines are offered for free at your state or local health department, pharmacy, or health center.



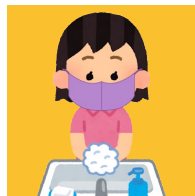
After vaccination kids may experience: arm pain, headache, fever, or chills.



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.