Why should we vaccinate children?

Some children get very sick from coronavirus. COVID-19 is a leading cause of death in children. It is a top cause of death 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 dose(s).

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.

+ If someone is sick, they should stay away from others in the household and other measures like mask wearing, sanitation, and ventilation should be used.

+ 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 COVID vaccines 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: August 5, 2024

Children and the COVID-19 Vaccine

Get An Updated COVID Vaccine

COVID-19 Vaccine Awareness Campaign

COVID-19 VACCINES FOR CHILDREN

- **Children 6 months – 4 yrs:** Can get 1 dose of the 2024-2025 Pfizer or Moderna vaccine if up-to-date on their vaccines. If previously unvaccinated, they will need 3 doses of Pfizer or 2 doses of Moderna to be up to date.

- **Children 5 yrs – 11 yrs:** Can get one dose of the 2024-2025 Pfizer or Moderna vaccine to be up-to-date, regardless of previous vaccination.

- **Children 12 yrs and older:** Can get one dose of the 2024-2025 Pfizer, Moderna, or Novavax vaccines if they were up-to-date on their vaccines. If they were not up-to-date, they can get one dose of Pfizer or Moderna, or 2 doses of Novavax.

- **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

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN

- Get vaccinated and get your children who are 6 months and older vaccinated.

- It's not 2020 anymore – but COVID is still making people very sick and we need to take steps to be safe and not spread it!.

- **If your child gets sick:**
  - Testing is recommended but not required.
  - Stay home and away from others until they have been fever-free for 24 hours and they are improving
  - **Children over 2:** Should wear a mask or respirator for 5 days after they have been fever-free for 24 hours
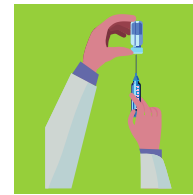 - See CDC guidelines for more information.

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
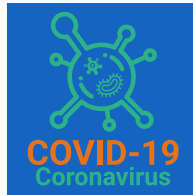
It is important for children to get vaccinated, even if they've had COVID-19.

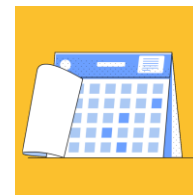**The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective for children.**

Check where vaccines are offered for free at your state or local health department, pharmacy, or health center.
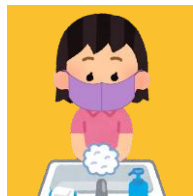
After vaccination kids may experience: arm pain, headache, fever, or chills.

They feel better a few days after the injection.

Kids are considered up to date once they receive their final dose or doses.

Wash your hands and take steps not to spread COVID-19.

Getting vaccinated helps protects 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

X Higher risk of COVID-19 infection.

X Higher risk of serious infection, hospitalization, and death.

X Higher risk of developing long-term symptoms of COVID-19 if infected.

X Higher risk of being exposed to new forms of the virus that are more contagious and dangerous.