

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

COVID-19 Vaccine for Children



The following are common questions and answers about the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children and teens. Please talk to your medical provider if you have other questions or concerns.

Why is it important for kids to get vaccinated against COVID-19?

Vaccinations help prevent kids from getting the virus that causes COVID-19. They also help prevent kids from getting very sick or spreading the virus if they do get infected. After 2 doses of the vaccine, most children can safely return to many activities that they did before the pandemic.

How do children and teens feel after they get the vaccine?

The way the body responds to the vaccine (side effects) can be different from person to person. Children 12 to 18 feel similar side effects to those that adults feel, and most go away after 1 to 2 days. Side effects in children ages 5-11 are reported to be more mild.

Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine in Children		
6 months to 4 years	5 to 11 years	12 to 18 years
Common Side Effects		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pain at the injection site• Fatigue (feel tired)• Headache• Fever	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pain at the injection site• Fatigue (feel tired)• Headache	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pain at the injection site• Fatigue (feel tired)• Headache• Fever
Rare Side Effects		
No cases of myocarditis occurred in clinical trials with this age group.	No cases of myocarditis occurred in clinical trials with this age group.	Myocarditis (heart inflammation)
Vaccine Efficacy (Success in preventing COVID-19 illness)		
80.3%	90.9%	100%

Is the dose for children different than the dose for adults?

The dose is different for some age groups. The vaccine dose for children 12 to 17 years old is the same as the dose used for people 18 years old and older. The dose for children 5 to 11 years old is smaller than the adult dose. The dose for children 6 months to 4 years old is even smaller.

Patient Family Education

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Does the COVID-19 vaccine conflict with other childhood vaccines?

No, the COVID-19 vaccine does not conflict with other childhood vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccine can be given at the same time as other routine vaccines, including influenza vaccine. It is important for your children to stay up-to-date on all of their vaccinations.

Does my child's size or age affect their ability to get the vaccine?

Scientists studying the vaccine have developed vaccines that are based on age rather than size. Your child should get the vaccine recommended for their age.

Can children with asthma, allergies or other health conditions get the vaccine?

It is okay for children with asthma to get the vaccine. Children should **not** get the COVID-19 vaccine if they:

- Are allergic to one of the ingredients
- Had a severe allergic reaction to the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine

Have scientists studied how the vaccine affects children's bodies?

Yes. Scientists conducted clinical trials before they recommended the COVID-19 vaccine for children. Based on how the vaccine works, there are no concerns about effects on development.

Will the vaccine make teens unable to have children in the future?

No, the vaccine will not cause problems with a person's ability to have children (known as fertility).

Will the drug company monitor vaccinated children?

Yes, it is common to monitor adults and children who get new vaccines for up to two years. This is done to collect information about how they are doing. It also helps us understand how long the protection against COVID-19 lasts.

Do healthy children and teens infected with COVID-19 need to be hospitalized?

Currently, children make up about 3 out of every 10 COVID-19 cases. The symptoms of infection for children and teens can vary. Some have mild symptoms, but some have severe, life-threatening symptoms that need medical attention. COVID-19 is currently the fifth leading cause of death in young children.

I am still unsure about having my child vaccinated. Who can I talk to?

Please talk to your child's pediatrician or medical provider if you have more questions.