COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens
What Parents and Caregivers Need to Know

Everyone ages 5 years and older should get vaccinated against COVID-19

If infected with COVID-19, children and teens can:

- Get really sick
- Have both short- and long-term health problems
- Spread COVID-19 to loved ones and people at school and in the community

There is no way to tell in advance how children or teens will be affected by COVID-19. Although uncommon, even healthy children can get really sick from COVID-19. Children and teens can also experience ongoing health problems after getting COVID-19 that can include physical and mental health complications that can affect their quality of life.

Getting children vaccinated can help keep them from getting really sick if they do get COVID-19. Vaccination can also help keep children in school or daycare and safely participating in group activities.

Help protect children and teens by getting them vaccinated against COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe for children and teens

The benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks.

COVID-19 vaccines are monitored under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history. Before recommending COVID-19 vaccination for children, scientists conducted clinical trials with thousands of children to make sure vaccination was safe and effective. The safety of COVID-19 vaccines continues to be monitored, including the low risk of myocarditis and pericarditis in children and teens. Serious reactions after COVID-19 vaccination are rare and are most frequently reported the day after vaccination.

Children cannot get COVID-19 from getting vaccinated and COVID-19 vaccines do not alter DNA in any way. There is also no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination causes any problems with fertility or becoming pregnant in the future.

Through ongoing safety monitoring, COVID-19 vaccination continues to be found safe for children and teens.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov/covid-19/children-teens.html

Getting children vaccinated against COVID-19

COVID-19 vaccine dosage is based on age on the day of vaccination and not size or weight. Children get a smaller dose that is the right size for them.

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine will be very similar to getting other routine vaccines. Your child may get the COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines, including a flu vaccine, at the same time.
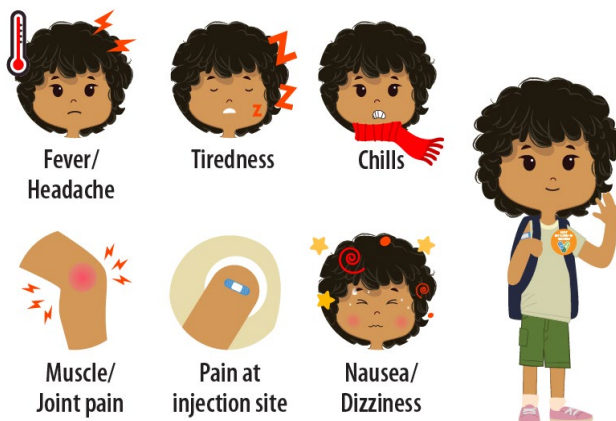
Children and teens who have already had COVID-19 should still get vaccinated

Emerging evidence indicates that people can get added protection by getting vaccinated after having been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. So, even if a child has had COVID-19, they should still get vaccinated.

Side effects after COVID-19 vaccination

Reported side effects tend to be mild, temporary and like those experienced after routine vaccines. Some children and teens have no side effects.

Side effects are more common after the second dose of vaccine. These side effects may affect your child's daily activities, but should go away in a few days. Ask your child's healthcare provider for advice on using a non-aspirin pain reliever **after** vaccination. You can also ask about other steps you can take at home, including placing a cool, damp cloth where your child got the shot if the area hurts.

Fever/Headache   Tiredness   Chills

Muscle/Joint pain   Pain at injection site   Nausea/Dizziness

Find a COVID-19 vaccine for children and teens

COVID-19 vaccines are free of charge to everyone in the United States. Finding a COVID-19 vaccine is easy:

- Contact your child s doctor or local pharmacy, clinic, or health department to see if vaccines are available.
- Visit vaccines.gov and enter your ZIP code to find a location near you.
- Text your ZIP code to **438829** or call **1-800-232-0233** to find COVID-19 vaccines for children and teens.
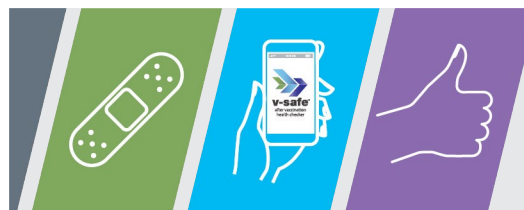
Get started with v-safe

After getting your child vaccinated, **enroll them in the v-safe After Vaccination Health Checker**. v-safe provides personalized and confidential health check-ins after COVID-19 vaccination.

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