

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ABOUT PEDIATRIC COVID-19 VACCINES

? Can my child receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

YES — Children ages 6 months and older are approved to get a vaccine. The timing and number of doses will depend on when your child received their last COVID-19 vaccination and on how many doses they have already gotten.

Just like flu vaccines are updated to protect us from the most common strain of the flu that is spreading, COVID-19 vaccines have been updated to help protect against new variants.

? My child is having a birthday soon, should I wait to get them vaccinated?

NO — COVID-19 vaccines are age specific, meaning the dose they get depends on how old they are at the time of vaccination. Your child's doctor will ensure they get the correct dose for their age!

? Where can my child get a COVID-19 vaccine?

At their regular doctor's office or pediatric clinic! Ask about the Vaccines for Children program to see if your child can be vaccinated at little or no cost! Pharmacies can also give flu and COVID-19 vaccines to children ages 3 years and older.

? Is one vaccine manufacturer recommended over the other?

NO — The Pfizer and Moderna vaccine products are proven to be safe and effective for children 6 months and older. Novavax vaccines are also available for children ages 12 years and older.

? Can a child get other non-COVID vaccines on the same day?

YES — Children and others should get more than one vaccine at the same time if they need them!



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This information was developed in coordination with Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics via funding made possible by the Office of Disease Control, through the Illinois Department of Public Health.

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Children aren't supposed to die of COVID-19 at the same rate as adults.

? Why does my child need a COVID-19 vaccine?

Many children, especially those under 5 years old, have been hospitalized due to COVID-19—even children without underlying medical issues. Most of these children who have been in the hospital are unvaccinated. And, although the death rate among children is lower than it is for adults, the death rate is still a problem. COVID-19 contributes to more pediatric deaths per year than other vaccine-preventable diseases.



? What are the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?

Common side effects may include a sore arm, headache, fever, and/or tiredness. These usually don't last long and are not serious or dangerous.

Side effects are signs that the vaccine is working to stimulate the immune system (if you or your child don't get side effects, the vaccine is still working!)

More serious side effects are extremely rare and much less common than the complications that can happen from COVID-19 infection.

? What if my child already had COVID-19?

They should still be vaccinated since they can get COVID more than once! Getting a vaccine will help protect them against new variants and can also protect against serious illness. Check with your child's doctor to see how long your child should wait after having COVID-19 to get vaccinated.

? What is the risk of my child developing myocarditis after the vaccine?

This is very, very rare. The risk of myocarditis is greater from COVID-19 infection than from COVID-19 vaccines. Myocarditis from the vaccine is milder, nearly all those affected make a full recovery and it usually doesn't last as long.



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