

## What to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines for Children

### Who is eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

**Anyone 5 years and older can receive a COVID-19 vaccine.** Pfizer's vaccine is approved for individuals aged 5 and older. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson's vaccines are approved for individuals aged 18 and older.

### Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for children?

**Yes.** COVID-19 vaccines have been through rigorous clinical trials, designed specifically for children. Because children's immune systems are different than adults and change as they age, vaccines are tested for different age groups, going down in age as the trials progress. The COVID-19 vaccine dose for children ages 5-11 is smaller than for those aged 12 and older, and they are safe and effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19.

### Why should my child receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

**Having as many people as possible vaccinated against COVID-19 is the most important and effective way to control the pandemic.** Children can become severely ill and become hospitalized from acute COVID-19, just like adults. Children who recover from COVID-19 may also suffer from prolonged symptoms, similar to Long COVID in adults. Children can develop Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C) following COVID-19 infection, which can severely affect multiple organs, and may lead to intensive care or death. Children can effectively transmit the virus to someone else, putting other individuals at risk for COVID-19 infection and severe disease. Lastly, vaccinating your child may allow them to participate more fully in school, sports and family life.

**The vaccines are the best way to protect your child, your community and your loved ones from COVID-19.**

### Does the COVID-19 vaccine cause infertility?

**No.** There is no evidence that the vaccines affect a person's fertility now or in the future. In fact, pregnant women are at risk for severe COVID-19 disease. It is recommended that everyone eligible get vaccinated, including those who are currently pregnant, breastfeeding or want to be pregnant in the future.

### Will my child experience side effects from the vaccine?

**In studies, children experienced mostly mild side effects including injection site pain, fatigue or headaches.** Serious side effects are rare. There are reports of myocarditis and pericarditis (an inflammation of the heart muscle and capsule) following vaccination with mRNA vaccines. If it occurs, it is more likely to occur within the 1st week after a dose, and following a 2nd dose. Young males appear to be more at risk for this rare complication. The majority recover without after effects. It is important to know that the risk of getting myocarditis from the vaccine is extremely low. Children are more likely to get myocarditis from a COVID-19 infection than they are from the vaccine. If you have concerns about your child's risk, discuss it with your pediatric provider.

