

# COVID-19 Pediatric Vaccines for Children 5 Years and Under

## FAQ



### Why should you vaccinate your child for COVID-19?

Children can get COVID-19, and sometimes they can have serious and long-term health effects. During the Omicron surge, the U.S. reached a record number of pediatric hospitalizations.

1. Children who get COVID-19 can develop serious complications of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C). This is a condition where different organs can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, or brain.
2. Children who are not vaccinated and get infected with the virus can develop long COVID, which is a condition with persistent COVID-19 symptoms that can last months, including difficulty breathing, fatigue, and headaches.

The best way to protect your child from MIS-C and long COVID is to get them vaccinated.

### Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for your child?

The COVID-19 vaccine for Pfizer and Moderna had to meet high standards for safety and effectiveness to be authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Extensive research trials and real-world experience in those who have already received the COVID-19 vaccine have demonstrated an excellent safety profile. Tens of millions of children and teens have received the vaccines and thorough monitoring has been done to ensure that these products are safe. The COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing serious illness from COVID-19, including hospitalization and death.

### How many doses does your child need?

Currently, the Pfizer pediatric vaccine is authorized and recommended for children 6 months - 4 years old and the Moderna pediatric vaccine is authorized and recommended for children 6 months - 5 years old.

- Pfizer-BioNTech (3 micrograms, 1/10 of the adult dose)
  - Two doses, 3 weeks apart.
  - Third dose, 8 weeks after second dose.
- Moderna (25 micrograms, 1/4 of the adult dose)
  - Two doses, 4 weeks apart.

The Pfizer vaccine requires 3 doses and the Moderna vaccine requires 2 doses to be fully effective. Children are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after completing the primary series of the COVID-19 vaccine.

### Where can you get your child vaccinated?

At this time, vaccine providers, such as clinics and pharmacies are able to provide COVID-19 vaccines. You can visit the COVID-19 vaccine webpage for a list of available provider sites: [www.fcdph.org/covid19vax](https://www.fcdph.org/covid19vax). Vaccine appointments are also available via MyTurn: <https://myturn.ca.gov>.

### What are common side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine?

Your child may experience some side effects a few days after getting the COVID-19 vaccine. Side effects are typically mild and are normal signs that the immune system is building protection against COVID-19. Common COVID-19 vaccine side effects in children include: pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, nausea, chills, joint pain, and fever. There is no evidence of any long-term effects of the COVID-19 vaccine in children.

### Is it safe to get a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines?

Children can get the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other routine vaccinations. Their immune response produces side effects that are generally the same when a vaccine is given alone or with other vaccines. Talk with your child's pediatrician if you have any questions about your child's vaccine schedule.

### If your child has had COVID-19, do they need to get vaccinated?

Yes. You should get your child vaccinated against COVID-19 even if they've already had COVID-19. Having had COVID-19 does not protect someone against getting infected again. A recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study found that unvaccinated individuals are more than twice as likely to be reinfected with COVID-19 than those who had COVID-19 and then got vaccinated. It is important to vaccinate children after COVID-19 infection since it builds stronger immunity and protects against COVID-19 variants.