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COVID-19 VACCINES FOR KIDS: WHY THEY MATTER

DO MY KIDS NEED THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends COVID-19 vaccination for children 5 years and older (<https://bit.ly/3xgLj00>). The only exclusions are children who have a medical reason that prevents them from receiving the vaccine. Your pediatrician can tell you if your child has a medical reason.

COVID-19 is very dangerous for people of all ages, including children. Consider vaccinating your children because:

- Over 13 million children have had COVID-19 since the pandemic's onset. **More than 42,000 children have been hospitalized.**
- 1,240 children have died of COVID-19.
- **Children who get COVID-19 can experience long-term complications, like adults.** Over 8,000 children with COVID-19 also experienced multi-system inflammatory syndrome (MISC). MISC is a rare but serious condition.

Other important reasons to consider vaccinating your children are to:

- Protect your whole family and community. Anyone in your family who is elderly or has other health conditions needs this protection.
- Help children stay in school, which is crucial after much disruption during 2020-21.
- Limit the spread of COVID-19 in the community to ensure schools can remain open and safe for students.

- Protect children from hospitalization or long-lasting COVID-19 symptoms.
- Build immunity from COVID-19 safely and dependably.

Medical science has proven that other vaccines keep dangerous diseases and viruses away from our kids. COVID-19 vaccines are no different. Even if your child already had a COVID-19 infection, they should still get vaccinated.

Don't forget that the COVID-19 vaccine is free.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE FOR MY CHILDREN?

Over half of all children ages 12 to 17 have been fully vaccinated (14.8 million). Over 8 million 5 to 11-year-olds have been fully vaccinated. **This vaccine is the most studied vaccine in our history, and we continue to track them for all age groups.**

The benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks, most of which are mild side effects. **Getting COVID-19 is much riskier than getting the vaccine itself. The immunity you get from being sick from COVID-19 is NOT better than your immunity from COVID-19 vaccination.**

The vaccine is a safe and dependable way for the body to build immunity to COVID-19. Your child will probably feel some side effects after receiving the shot. Keep reading to learn more about side effects.

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The most common side effects are:

- Pain, redness, or swelling in the arm where the shot was given
- Fever
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle aches and pains

These side effects usually only last a few days and get better on their own.

In rare cases, children can have an allergic reaction to the vaccine. An allergic reaction can happen with any vaccine. With the COVID-19 vaccine, **doctors watch children for the first 15-20 minutes after immunization.** If there are any allergic reactions, a doctor can treat them immediately.

A more serious and rare side effect is myocarditis, inflammation of the heart muscles. However, the risk of myocarditis in teenage boys (12-17 years of age) following a COVID-19 infection is six times higher than myocarditis after vaccination. **When associated with the vaccine, all myocarditis cases recovered completely.**

Vaccines rarely cause long-term effects, but COVID-19 infections can.

WHAT IS THE VACCINE ADVERSE EVENT REPORTING SYSTEM (VAERS)?

Anyone can submit a report to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Since anyone can report an event in VAERS, we cannot use VAERS to determine whether a vaccine caused an adverse event or illness. Some reports might be incomplete, inaccurate, coincidental, or unverifiable. VAERS is helpful for vaccine safety experts. These experts follow up on reports of serious events to learn more about what happened.

If you have questions or concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine for you or your children, please talk to your family doctors. Your doctor can explain more about how the vaccine is made, how it works, and what ingredients are used to make them.

Sources:

American Academy of Pediatricians

(<https://bit.ly/3O3JWd3> and <https://bit.ly/3NzERte>)

Centers for Disease Control

(<https://bit.ly/3Q5Eicl>)

The Mayo Clinic (<https://mayocl.in/3Q9GUFQ>)

CHECK YOUR SOURCES

HOW DOES
THE VACCINE
WORK?



WHERE CAN I
GET
VACCINATED?



FREQUENTLY
ASKED
QUESTIONS

