



COVID-19 Vaccines

What Parents Need to Know



Ages 5-11
1/3 DOSE



Ages 12 & up
FULL DOSE

CAN MY CHILD GET A COVID VACCINE?

Children age 5 and older can get a **Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine**.

- Youth 12 and older get the same vaccine as adults.
- Children ages 5-11 get a version that is a smaller dose. It is given with a smaller needle made for children.
- Both versions of the vaccines are given as **2 doses 21 days apart** for the primary series. They can be given at the same time as other vaccines like flu or HPV.
- Youth 12 and older should get a **booster dose** 5 months after the last dose of their primary series.
- Vaccines are **free** for everyone. You don't need insurance and you will not be asked about your immigration status.

SHOULD I GET MY CHILD VACCINATED FOR COVID-19?

Yes!

- Vaccinating your child(ren) is the **best way to protect them, your family and your friends** from getting COVID-19. Even though COVID-19 is usually milder in children, some get very sick or have lasting health problems.
- Children can spread the virus to others even if they don't feel sick. This includes people who are too young to be vaccinated and those who are at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19.
- Vaccinating your child can help keep them in school and make it safer for them to take part in group activities. If fully vaccinated, they won't need to test to play some sports or go to events. And they may not need to quarantine if they have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19.



WHERE CAN I GET MY CHILD VACCINATED?

COVID vaccines are available at many doctors' offices, clinics, schools, & pharmacies. Visit **VaccinateLACounty.com** to find a site near you. Make sure they have the right Pfizer vaccine for your child's age and ask about **parent/caregiver consent**. If you are a foster caregiver or group home staff, you can provide consent as long as the foster child agrees.

Call the DPH Vaccine Call Center at **833-540-0473** or **2-1-1** if you need help finding a vaccine, transportation, or in-home vaccination.





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WHAT ARE THE VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS?

- Common side effects include pain, swelling, or redness in the arm where the vaccine was given, feeling tired, headache, muscle ache, nausea, fever or chills. These side-effects are a sign that your child's immune system is **building protection**.
- Side-effects may affect your child's ability to do some daily activities but should go away within a few days.



ARE COVID VACCINES SAFE FOR CHILDREN?

- **Yes, COVID-19 vaccines are safe for children.** The vaccines have gone through the most **intensive safety monitoring** in US history. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has been rigorously tested and is safe and effective for adults and children. Since being authorized, millions of children age 5 and older have safely received the vaccine.
- Serious health events are **rare**.
 - A small number of people have had inflammation of the heart (myocarditis and pericarditis) after getting a Pfizer vaccine. This is more common in male adolescents and young adults. Most cases are mild and respond well to treatment and rest.
 - Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) can happen after any vaccine but is rare. Everyone is observed after getting a COVID-19 vaccine. If a reaction does happen, it is treated right away.
- Your child **cannot get COVID-19** from any COVID-19 vaccine.
- There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines affect development or fertility.



BEFORE YOUR CHILD GETS VACCINATED

- **Talk to your child** about the vaccine, possible side effects, and what to expect.
- Do not give pain relievers before their vaccine to try to prevent side effects.
- Tell the vaccination site if your child has any allergies.



For more details see the **COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs for Parents** at **[VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinateLACounty.com)**

