

Children and the COVID-19 Vaccine

Who is eligible for vaccination?

In mid-May, the Pfizer vaccine received FDA emergency use authorization for individuals as young as 12. Two other vaccines, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson (Janssen), are authorized for individuals 18 and older. All three vaccines have been determined to be safe and effective.

Why should my child receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccination is one of the most important ways to slow the spread of COVID-19. We encourage everyone to get vaccinated when they are eligible and when vaccine is available.

Children have generally had milder cases of COVID-19, and most don't have serious symptoms. However, some children have become severely ill from acute COVID-19 or from post-COVID-19 multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C). In addition, children can still transmit the virus, so it's important to protect them and those around them by getting them vaccinated. In addition, vaccinating children is an important step in reaching herd immunity and getting the pandemic under control.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for children?

Yes, the COVID-19 vaccines authorized for emergency use by the FDA are safe and effective. Similar to the first authorized COVID-19 vaccines for adults, the vaccine has been rigorously tested and analyzed to determine its safety and effectiveness. Because children's immune systems are different than adults, and change as they age, vaccines are being tested and approved for different age groups. Medical trials involving children require strict protocols to ensure their safety.



What side effects should I should be concerned with?

Side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine are generally mild and may include soreness at the injection site, headache, fatigue and body aches. Serious side effects are rare.

Will the vaccine affect my child's future fertility?

No, there is no evidence that the COVID-19 vaccine affects fertility. In fact, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, along with other medical associations and Cleveland Clinic, urges everyone, including pregnant women and those who plan to become pregnant, to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

When will younger children be vaccinated?

Some drug companies are now expanding vaccine clinical trials to include younger children and babies as young as 6 months old. This is a crucial step in our efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19. These pediatric vaccine trials will provide critical safety data and help us better understand the vaccine's immune response in children. As we wait, we must continue to mask, social distance, wash hands frequently and avoid large gatherings.