

# COVID-19 Vaccine for Preteens and Teens

CDC recommends vaccination for everyone 12 years and older to help protect against COVID-19.

## Why does my child need a COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccines help protect kids from getting COVID-19. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine will also help keep them from getting seriously ill even if they do get COVID-19.

## When should my child be vaccinated?

All kids who are 12 years and older should get a COVID-19 vaccine. If your preteen or teen hasn't gotten their vaccine yet, talk to their doctor about getting it as soon as possible.

## Are COVID-19 vaccines safe for my child?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccination provides safe and effective protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccines have been used under the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history.

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine is now available for everyone ages 12 and older. In the clinical trial for children ages 12 through 15, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was 100% effective at preventing COVID-19 with symptoms. In addition, children's immune systems responded to the vaccine in a way similar to those of older teens and young adults. No safety concerns were identified in the clinical trial.

### All authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines:

- are safe,
- are effective
- help protect from severe illness

## Before, during and after your child's vaccination

- Your child will need 2 shots given 3 weeks (21 days) apart to get the most protection.
- Tell the doctor or nurse about any allergies your child may have.
- Comfort your child during the appointment.
- To prevent fainting and injuries related to fainting, your child should be seated or lying down during vaccination and for 15 minutes after the vaccine is given.
- After your child's COVID-19 vaccination, you will be asked to stay for 15 minutes so your child can be observed in case they have a severe allergic reaction and need immediate treatment.





[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines)

## What are the side effects?

Your child may have some side effects, which are normal signs that their body is building protection. These side effects may affect your child's ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Some people have no side effects. Side effects from the second shot may be more intense than the ones your child experienced after their first shot. **Contact your child's doctor or healthcare provider:**

- If the redness or tenderness where the shot gets worse after 24 hours
- If the side effects are worrying you or do not seem to be going away after a few days.

## Possible side effects after COVID-19 vaccination include:

| On the arm where you got the shot:  | Throughout the rest of your body:  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Pain</li> <li>■ Redness</li> <li>■ Swelling</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tiredness</li> <li>■ Headache</li> <li>■ Muscle pain</li> <li>■ Chills</li> <li>■ Fever</li> <li>■ Nausea</li> </ul>  |

The benefits of COVID-19 vaccination far outweigh any potential risk of side effects. COVID-19 vaccination will help protect your child from getting COVID-19.

## Who is paying for COVID-19 vaccines?

The federal government is providing COVID-19 vaccines free of charge to all people living in the United States, regardless of their immigration or health insurance status. COVID-19 vaccination providers cannot:

- Charge you for the vaccine
- Charge you directly for any administration fees, copays, or coinsurance
- Deny vaccination to anyone who does not have health insurance coverage, is underinsured, or is out of network
- Charge an office visit or other fee to the recipient if the only service provided is a COVID-19 vaccination
- Require additional services in order for a person to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

## Where can I learn more?

Talk to your child's doctor or nurse to learn more about COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines that your child may need.

You can also find out more at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).