Most Children and All Teens Can Get COVID-19 Vaccines

CDC recommends **everyone ages 5 and older get a COVID-19 vaccine** to help protect against COVID-19.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorized For</th>
<th>Pfizer-BioNTech</th>
<th>Moderna</th>
<th>J&amp;J / Janssen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 years and under</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5–11 years old</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–17 years old</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 years and older</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Widespread vaccination for COVID-19 is a critical tool to best protect everyone, especially those at highest risk, from severe illness and death. People who are fully vaccinated can safely resume many activities that they did prior to the pandemic. Children ages 5 years and older are able to get an age-appropriate dose of **Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine**. Learn more about what you and your child or teen can do **when fully vaccinated**.

Find a COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 5 Years and Older

- The federal government is providing the COVID-19 vaccine free of charge to all people living in the United States, regardless of their immigration or health insurance status.
- Check with your child’s healthcare provider about whether they offer COVID-19 vaccination.
- Check your local pharmacy’s website to see if vaccination walk-ins or appointments are available for children.
- Contact your **state, territorial, local, or tribal health department** for more information.

Find a COVID-19 vaccine: Search **vaccines.gov**, text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find locations near you.
Why Children and Teens Should Get Vaccinated for COVID-19

There are approximately 28 million children between the ages of 5 and 11 years old in the United States, and there have been nearly 2 million cases of COVID-19 within this age group during the pandemic. COVID-19 can make children very sick and cause children to be hospitalized. In some situations, the complications from infection can lead to death.

Children are as likely to be infected with COVID-19 as adults and can

- Get very sick from COVID-19
- Have both short and long-term health complications from COVID-19
- Spread COVID-19 to others, including at home and school

As of mid-October 2021, children ages 5 through 11 years have experienced more than 8,300 COVID-19 related hospitalizations and nearly 100 deaths from COVID-19. In fact, COVID-19 ranks as one of the top 10 causes of death for children aged 5 through 11 years.

Children who get infected with COVID-19 can also develop serious complications like multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C)—a condition where different body parts become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs. Since the pandemic began, more than 2,300 cases of MIS-C have been reported in children ages 5 through 11 years. Children with underlying medical conditions are more at risk for severe illness from COVID-19 compared with children without underlying medical conditions.

Help Protect Your Child, Your Family, and Others

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can help protect children ages 5 years and older from getting COVID-19.

- Vaccinating children can help protect family members, including siblings who are not eligible for vaccination and family members who may be at increased risk of getting very sick if they are infected.
- Vaccination can also help keep children from getting seriously sick even if they do get COVID-19.
- Vaccinating children ages 5 years and older can help keep them in school and help them safely participate in sports, playdates, and other group activities.

Help protect your whole family and slow the spread of COVID-19 in your community by getting yourself and your children ages 5 years and older vaccinated against COVID-19.

Protect Unvaccinated Children

Unvaccinated children ages 2 years and older should wear a mask in public spaces and around people they don’t live with. Learn more about protecting unvaccinated family members.