



# COVID-19 Vaccines

## What Parents Need to Know



### CAN MY CHILD GET A COVID VACCINE?

Children age 12 and older can get the **Pfizer** vaccine.

- Vaccines are **free** for everyone.
- You don't need to have insurance.
- You will not be asked about your immigration status.
- Everyone can get vaccinated, including most people who have allergies.



### SHOULD I GET MY CHILD VACCINATED FOR COVID-19?

- Yes! COVID-19 vaccines are **safe and effective**.
- COVID-19 infection is often milder in children, but some kids can get very sick or have lasting health problems.
- Children can spread the virus to others. Help protect your family by getting yourself and your children vaccinated.



### WHERE CAN I GET MY CHILD VACCINATED?

Ask your child's doctor, a local pharmacy, or visit **VaccinateLACounty.com** to find a vaccination site near you. Look for pop-up vaccine clinics at your child's school.

**No appointment needed** at many locations.

Call the DPH Vaccine Call Center at **833-540-0473** if you need help finding a vaccine, need transportation to a site, or to request in-home vaccination for a child who is homebound. Open daily from 8am to 8:30pm.

Information is available in multiple languages 24/7 by calling 2-1-1.

### WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS?

- Children receive the same dose of vaccine and have the same side effects as adults.
- Side effects may include sore or red arm, feeling tired, fever, chills, headache or muscle ache. Not everyone will get them.
- They are common and a sign that your child's immune system is **building protection**.
- They may affect your child's ability to do some daily activities but should go away within a few days.





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### ARE COVID VACCINES SAFE FOR CHILDREN?

- Your child cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine. None of the vaccines contain the virus that causes COVID-19.
- The vaccines were tested on tens of thousands of people, including people of all ages, people of color, and people with medical conditions and found to be safe.
- Every step that is required to make sure a vaccine is **safe and effective** was followed.
- A small number of people, mostly adolescents and young adults, have had inflammation of the heart (myocarditis and pericarditis) after getting a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. This is extremely rare. Most cases were mild and responded well to treatment and rest. Myocarditis and pericarditis are more common in people who get COVID-19, and the risks to the heart from COVID-19 infection can be more severe. **The benefits from the vaccine outweigh the risks.**
- There is no evidence that the COVID-19 vaccine affects adolescent development or future fertility.
- If you have questions or concerns, talk to your child’s doctor.



### BEFORE YOUR CHILD GETS VACCINATED

- Talk to your child about the vaccine, possible side effects, and what to expect at their vaccination visit.
- Be sure the vaccination site is offering the Pfizer vaccine.
- Check to see how **parent consent** needs to be given.
- Get your child caught up on other vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccine can be given at the same time, before, or after other routine vaccines.

### AFTER GETTING VACCINATED

- Your child is **fully vaccinated** 2 weeks after they get their 2nd Pfizer vaccine. It takes time for the body to build immunity.
- Once your child is fully vaccinated, they will be protected when they visit with friends, play sports, travel to see family, and return to school.
- If your child is fully vaccinated, they do not need to quarantine if a friend, family member, teacher or teammate gets COVID-19.

