



COVID-19 Vaccines

What Parents Need to Know

VACCINES PROTECT FROM THE WORST OUTCOMES OF COVID.

- Though COVID-19 is usually milder in children, even healthy children can get very sick, go to the hospital, or die from COVID-19. Children can also get long-term mental and physical health problems from COVID-19 (called long COVID).
- The COVID-19 vaccine reduces the risk of getting very sick from COVID-19. It also lowers the risk of getting long COVID.
- All of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are updated (bivalent) vaccines. This means that they have been updated to protect against more recent strains of the virus.



UPDATED COVID-19 VACCINES ARE RECOMMENDED FOR ALL CHILDREN AGES 6 MONTHS AND OLDER

- **Children ages 6 years and older who:**
 - **Already got one updated vaccine dose are up to date.** If they are immunocompromised, they may get additional doses.
 - **Never got vaccinated or who never got an updated dose should get one dose.**
 - **Children ages 6 months through 5 years** may need multiple doses to be up to date, including at least one updated dose. The number of doses depends on their age, and which vaccine(s) they already received. For more information, talk to their doctor or visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccine](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccine).
- Children who have already had a COVID infection should still get vaccinated.
 - COVID-19 vaccines can be given at the same time as other routine childhood vaccines.



HOW TO GET A VACCINE

- Visit ph.lacounty.gov/howtogetvaccinated to find a site near you. Make sure they have the right vaccine for your child's age and ask about **parent/caregiver consent**. Most pharmacies cannot vaccinate children under 3.
- Call the DPH Vaccine Call Center at **1-833-540-0473** or **2-1-1** if you need help finding a vaccine, transportation, or in-home vaccination.
- Vaccines are free for everyone. You don't need insurance and you will not be asked about your immigration status.



Note: The monovalent Novavax vaccine is available for ages 12+ in [some situations](#).





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VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS

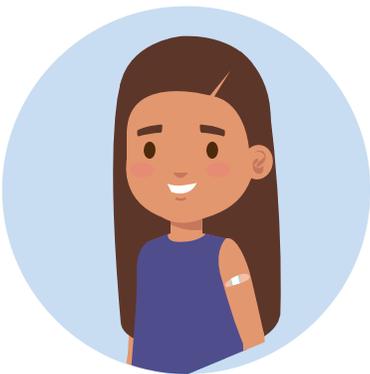
- Your child may have side effects similar to those seen with other routine childhood vaccines. They are usually **mild and will go away** within a few days. Some children have no side effects.
- Common side effects include pain, swelling, or redness in the arm or thigh where the vaccine was given, muscle or joint pain, swollen lymph nodes, fever, chills, headache, irritability or crying, feeling tired, sleepiness, and loss of appetite.

COVID-19 vaccine dosage is based on your child's age, not their size or weight. Children ages 12+ get the same dose of vaccine as adults.



VACCINE SAFETY

- **COVID-19 vaccines are safe for children.** Before recommending COVID-19 vaccines for children, clinical trials with thousands of children were done to test the safety of the vaccines and how well they worked. Since then, tens of millions of children in the U.S. have been vaccinated.
- COVID-19 vaccines have undergone—and will continue to undergo—the most **intensive safety monitoring** in U.S. history.
- Rare cases of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the outer lining of the heart) have been reported in children after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, mostly in males ages 12 and older. However, risks to the heart from a COVID-19 vaccine are much lower than from getting COVID-19 infection.
- Your child **cannot get COVID-19** from a COVID-19 vaccine.
- There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines affect development or fertility.



For more details visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccine](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccine).

VaccinateLACounty.com

