

# Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccines

## What Parents/Guardians Should Know

COVID-19 vaccination is now authorized for children ages 5 and up.

### Why should children get vaccinated?

Since March 2020, about 1.5 million children in the United States have gotten COVID-19. Children account for over 20 percent of new COVID-19 cases.

Getting vaccinated will help children stay safer while at school and hanging out with friends and family. They'll be much less likely to get seriously ill, be hospitalized, or die from COVID-19.

Clinical trials proved that this vaccine works very well at preventing COVID-19 in youth.

### How do I get my child vaccinated?

Ask your child's pediatrician or regular clinic if they carry the COVID-19 vaccine.

You can also visit [VaccineLocator.doh.wa.gov](https://www.vaccineLocator.doh.wa.gov) and use the filter to see a list of places near you that have the pediatric vaccine.

### How does this impact schools?

Washington state does not currently require children be vaccinated against COVID-19 to enter school. The Washington State Department of Health and the state Board of Health will tell people if this changes in the future.

Fully vaccinated students who do not have symptoms after COVID-19 exposure do not need to be quarantined and may not require testing.

### How will this help at home?

The COVID-19 vaccine can keep kids protected from the disease, meaning indoor gatherings can be safer to host or attend.

Families should continue following other recommended safety measures for the best protection.



### Which vaccine should children get?

At this time, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is the **only** brand authorized for kids ages 5-17.



- Children **ages 5-11** get a pediatric dose, which is a different amount than the adolescent and adult version.
- Children **ages 12-17** are eligible for the adolescent/adult dose.

### Do children or teens need a second shot?



Yes, both the pediatric and adolescent Pfizer vaccine is given in two doses at least 21 days apart. The person is considered fully vaccinated when it's been two weeks after their second dose.

To get your questions answered:



Visit: [VaccinateWA.org/kids](https://www.VaccinateWA.org/kids)



Call: 1-833-VAX-HELP (1-833-829-4357), Press #

Language assistance is available.

Vaccinate  
WA 

[CovidVaccineWA.org](https://www.CovidVaccineWA.org)

## Is COVID-19 really a risk to my child?

Although fewer children have been infected with COVID-19 compared to adults, children can:

- Be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19
- Get sick or die from COVID-19
- Spread COVID-19 to others
- Get serious complications from COVID-19, such as “long COVID” or a dangerous inflammatory disease called MIS-C

The vaccine was shown to have very few side effects in this population, and it protects them very well from the disease. The benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risk of getting COVID-19.

## Is the vaccine safe for my child?

Yes, the vaccine is considered very safe for children. No serious side effects were detected in clinical trials of the vaccine in 5-11 year olds. The studies are ongoing, and the U.S. has very strong vaccine safety systems to catch any warning signs early.

## What are the common side effects of the vaccine in children?

The health risks if children are infected with COVID-19 are much higher than the risk of vaccine side effects.

Like other vaccines, the most common side effects are a sore arm, tiredness, headache, and muscle pain. These symptoms are usually mild.

[In clinical trials](#) more children reported side effects after the second dose than after the first dose. Side effects were generally mild to moderate in severity and occurred within two days after vaccination, and most went away within one to two days.

## What do children need to bring to their appointment?

In most cases, parents and guardians will need to provide consent to vaccination for someone under age 18. They should ask the vaccine location what they need for consent.

Clinics may ask for the child’s ID, an insurance card, or Social Security number, but you do not need to give them.

Children do not need to be U.S. citizens to get the vaccine. Vaccine locations cannot ask for anyone’s immigration status. Personal data will only be used for public health purposes.

## I have more questions. Where can I go?

Find answers to more questions at [VaccinateWA.org/kids](https://www.vaccinatewa.org/kids). You can also talk to your child’s regular health care provider.