

# COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs: Children and Adolescents



## 1. What is COVID-19?

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COVID-19 is a contagious illness caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. COVID-19 was first identified in 2019.

## 2. Can children get very sick from COVID-19?

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Most children who have COVID-19 have mild symptoms, but severe illness and complications are possible. Children who are under two and children of any age with certain underlying health conditions have a higher chance of developing severe disease.

## 3. How can I help protect my child from COVID-19?

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Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is one of the best ways to help protect your child.

You can also:

- Encourage hand washing
- Keep sick children home
- Improve indoor air quality when possible

## 4. Should my child get a COVID-19 vaccine?

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The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends the COVID vaccine for all young children age 6 months through 23 months. Children younger than 2 years old are at highest risk for severe COVID-19. The COVID vaccine is also recommended for children and teens with risk factors for COVID-19 such as health conditions that increase their risk, living in long-term care facilities or group settings, never having been vaccinated against COVID, or having household contacts at high risk for severe COVID.

The vaccine also should be available for children ages 2-18 who do not fall into these risk groups, but whose parent wants them to have COVID vaccine protection. Talk with your child's doctor if you have questions.

## 5. Do COVID-19 vaccines work?

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Yes. COVID-19 vaccines help protect people from getting very sick from COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines can also help:

- Lower the chance of going to the hospital
- Make illness less severe if you do get sick
- Reduce the chance of needing urgent or emergency care



← Scan here to access additional helpful vaccine and immunization resources at [www.SpreadTheFacts.org](http://www.SpreadTheFacts.org)

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## 6. Do COVID-19 vaccines have side effects?

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Some people may feel tired after getting the vaccine. Others may have:

- Headache
- Muscle aches
- A sore arm
- Fever
- Swollen glands under the arm
- These side effects are normal and usually go away in a few days.

In rare cases, inflammation around or in the heart has been reported after COVID-19 vaccination, most often in adolescent boys and young men. These conditions are more likely to happen after a COVID-19 infection than after vaccination.

## 7. If my child already had COVID-19 this year, should they still get a vaccine?

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Your child can get the COVID vaccine even if they had COVID-19. Getting your child vaccinated can help protect them from getting sick again. Talk with your doctor about the best timing for vaccination following infection.

## 8. Can my child get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines at the same time?

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Yes. Most vaccines can be given at the same visit. Talk with your child's doctor to help determine what is right for them.

## 9. Is there treatment available if my child gets COVID-19?

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Yes. Talk with your child's doctor if you think they have COVID-19, especially if they have health problems that increase their risk of serious illness. Treatments work best when started early.

