

DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD'S

COVID-19 VACCINE FACTS?

FACT

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THE COVID-19 VACCINE PROTECTS YOUR CHILD AND FAMILY FROM SERIOUS ILLNESS

A COVID-19 vaccination will prevent your child from getting very sick even if they do get infected and help prevent serious short- and long-term complications of COVID-19. Vaccination will also help protect family members who may not be able to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

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THE PFIZER AND MODERNA COVID-19 VACCINES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR ALL AGES

In June 2022, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer vaccine in children aged 6 months to 4 years old. At the same time, the FDA issued an EUA for the Moderna vaccine in children ages 6 months to 17 years old. The FDA previously issued Pfizer an EUA for the vaccine in children aged 12-15 in June 2021. The FDA has fully authorized the Pfizer vaccine for people aged 16 and older and the Moderna vaccine for adults 18 years and older. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine was issued an EUA for adults 18 and older in February 2021.

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THE VACCINES ARE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE

Medical experts believe the benefits of the Pfizer and Moderna Covid-19 vaccines for children outweigh any known risks. The vaccines were evaluated in thousands of children who participated in multiple clinical trials with minimal side effects. After completing the series, children developed strong levels of coronavirus-fighting antibodies necessary to prevent serious illness.

In the U.S., over 590 million vaccine doses have been administered since December 2020. COVID-19 vaccines will continue to undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines remain safe and effective at preventing serious illness.

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AFTER VACCINATION, CHILDREN MAY EXPERIENCE MILD SIDE EFFECTS

The side effects for children of all ages are similar to the side effects adults experience. The most common side effects are fatigue, pain at the injection site, and headache, occurring more frequently after the second dose.

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LONG-TERM SIDE EFFECTS ARE RARE

Severe reactions after COVID-19 vaccination in children and teens are rare. Cases of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the outer lining of the heart) have been reported after children and teens (primarily males) got the second dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Most patients with myocarditis or pericarditis after COVID-19 vaccination responded well to medicine and rest and felt better quickly.

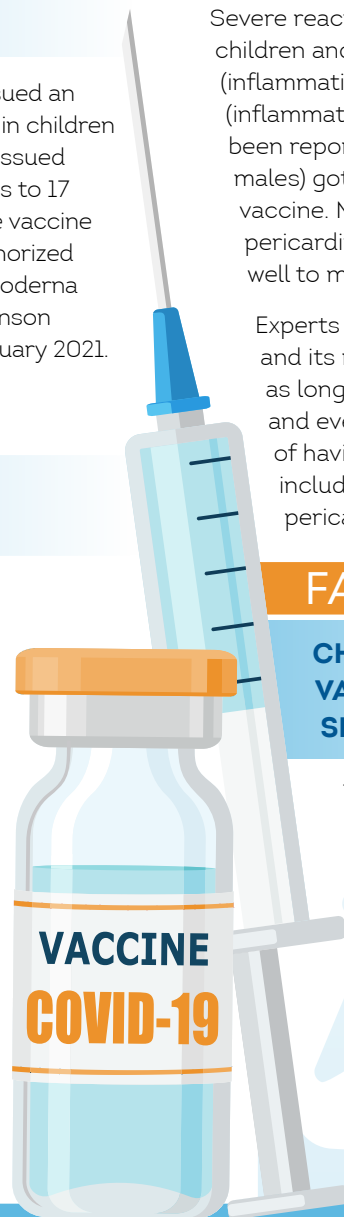
Experts believe the known risks of COVID-19 illness and its related, possibly severe complications, such as long-term health problems, hospitalization, and even death, far outweigh the potential risks of having a rare adverse reaction to vaccination, including the possible risk of myocarditis or pericarditis.

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CHILDREN ALLERGIC TO VACCINE INGREDIENTS SHOULD NOT GET VACCINATED

The vaccine should not be given to a child with a history of severe allergic reaction to any of its components. If this is the case, your child might be able to get another COVID-19 vaccine in the future. If you have questions or concerns, talk to your child's primary care provider to make an informed decision that is right for you and your family.



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THE DOSAGE AND NUMBER OF SHOTS DEPEND ON AGE AND BRAND

The number of shots, waiting period between shots and dosage amount depend on the vaccine brand and the child's age at the time of vaccination. Vaccine dosing is not based on weight like many medications. Children receive a smaller, age-appropriate dose that is the right size for them. The smaller doses were rigorously tested and found to create the needed immune response for each age group.

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BOOSTERS AVAILABLE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Children aged 5+ who received the Pfizer shot at least five months ago are eligible for a booster shot. Boosters are not currently recommended for children under 5 who received the Pfizer shot or for children 17 and under who received the Moderna shot. Boosters for these age groups and shots may be recommended later.

Age (At Time of Administration)	Dosage (Per Shot)	# Shots (Primary Series)	Waiting Period Between Shots
Pfizer Brand			
6 months to 4 years	3 mg	3	3 weeks between shots 1 and 2, at least 2 months between shots 2 and 3
5 to 11 years	10 mg	2	3 weeks between shots 1 and 2 <i>Booster recommended after 5 months</i>
12 to 15 years	30 mg	2	3 weeks between shots 1 and 2 <i>Booster recommended after 5 months</i>
16 + and Adults	30 mg	2	3 weeks between shots 1 and 2 <i>Booster recommended after 5 months</i>
Moderna Brand			
6 months to 5 years	25 mg	2	4 weeks between shots 1 and 2
6 to 11 years	50mg	2	4 weeks between shots 1 and 2
12 to 17 years	100 mg	2	4 weeks between shots 1 and 2
Adults (18+)	100 mg	2	4 weeks between shots 1 and 2 <i>Booster recommended after 5 months</i>



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ARE THE COVID-19 VACCINES GIVEN TO CHILDREN THE SAME AS THOSE GIVEN TO ADULTS?

The **Pfizer** and **Moderna** COVID-19 vaccines for children have the same active ingredients as those given to adults. However, children receive a smaller, age-appropriate dose that is the right size for them. The smaller doses were rigorously tested and found to create the needed immune response for each age group. Your child should get the vaccine made for their age group.

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CONSENT FROM A PARENT OR GUARDIAN IS NECESSARY FOR YOUR CHILD'S VACCINATION

Parents of minors 17 years of age and younger must provide consent to PeaceHealth for vaccination in Alaska and Washington. In Oregon, minors under 14 need parental consent; those 15 and older may provide their consent. Verbal consent can be provided in person at the time of vaccination or over the phone when scheduling the appointment.

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YOU CAN GET THE COVID VACCINE AND OTHER VACCINES AT THE SAME TIME

The CDC says you can receive other vaccines and a COVID-19 vaccine simultaneously. Talk with your child's healthcare provider if you are concerned about getting multiple vaccines simultaneously.

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CHILDREN WHO ALREADY HAD COVID-19 SHOULD STILL GET VACCINATED

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children should still be vaccinated and boosted once they've recovered. Two doses of an mRNA vaccine followed by one booster dose have been shown to provide the strongest, broadest, and most long-lasting protection in people who have and have not had COVID infection previously.

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THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS EFFECTIVE ON MULTIPLE STRAINS OF THE VIRUS

The currently available COVID-19 vaccines are effective against multiple virus strains, such as the delta and omicron variants. However, as long as the virus continues to spread, mutations are expected, and COVID-19 vaccines may also need to be revised to allow for growing diversity in the virus. This may mean additional vaccinations are necessary in the future to help sustain protection against the virus.

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DOES THE COVID-19 VACCINE CAUSE INFERTILITY OR DISTURB PUBERTY?

No. There is no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, can cause female or male fertility problems. There is no evidence that vaccine ingredients, including mRNA, or antibodies made following COVID-19 vaccination would cause any problems with becoming pregnant now or in the future. Similarly, there is no evidence that the COVID-19 vaccine affects puberty.

FACT

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CHILDREN SHOULD GET THE CORRECT DOSE FOR THEIR AGE ON THE VACCINATION DAY

Children should get the appropriate dosage for their age at the time of vaccination. The dosage is determined by age, not size or weight. If a child receives the 10-microgram dose for the first shot and then turns 12, the second shot should be the 30-microgram dose. Pediatricians say not to postpone vaccination because the kid-size dose will protect and produce effective coronavirus-fighting antibodies.

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YOUR CHILD SHOULD STILL FOLLOW SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AFTER VACCINATION

Most areas of the U.S. continue to see high levels of COVID-19 transmission, even though hospitalization and death rates are lower than in previous waves—likely due to vaccination and previous infections keeping severe illness at bay. Even so, your child should continue to follow safety recommendations in your local area, despite being vaccinated. These may include:

- Wearing a mask in crowded public spaces.
- Staying 6 feet away from people you don't live with.
- Avoiding crowded and poorly ventilated spaces.
- Staying home and self-quarantining/isolating after exposure or when displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

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GETTING YOUR CHILD VACCINATED IS QUICK, EASY, AND CURRENTLY FREE

The vaccine is currently completely free regardless of immigration and insurance status, and it's quick and easy for your child to get vaccinated. PeaceHealth offers vaccine appointments by telephone and online scheduling. [Check the PeaceHealth website](#) for information about vaccinations in your community.

Vaccines are also available at many pharmacies and drug stores. You can find locations by zip code at [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) or by calling 1-800-232-0233.