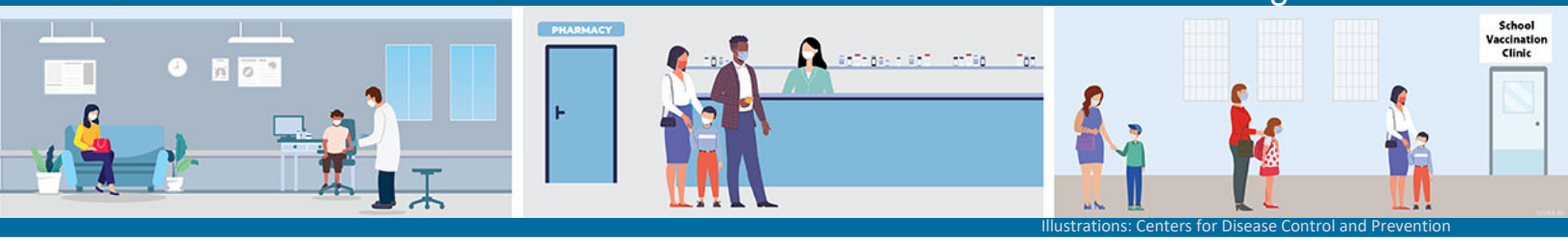
FAQs COVID-19 vaccines and kids: Answers about the vaccine for children ages 5-11



Illustrations: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Why is it important for my child to get a COVID-19 vaccine?
Vaccinating children ages 5 years and older can help protect them from getting COVID-19, spreading the virus to others, and getting sick if they do get infected. While COVID-19 tends to be milder in children than in adults, it can make children very sick, require hospitalization, and some children have even died. COVID-19 vaccination is critical to preventing infection and serious illness, as well as slowing the spread of the virus.
Source: CDC

Will my child get the same dosage of the COVID-19 vaccine as adults get?
If your child is between the ages of 5 to 11, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine dose is 10 micrograms and has the same active ingredients as adolescent and adult vaccines. However, the vaccine for children 5 to 11 comes in an orange cap vial. For children, 12 years and older the dose is 30 micrograms. The schedule to receive two doses is the same for all ages, which is 21 days apart.
Source: CDC

What was the level of COVID-19 vaccine efficacy in children during the clinical trials?
According to the FDA, the vaccine was found to be 90.7% effective in preventing COVID-19 in children 5 through 11. The immune response of kids ages 5 to 11 was similar to the immune response in people ages 16 to 25. The evidence to support this data is based on ongoing randomized, placebo-control clinical studies.
Source: FDA

Will my child experience any long-term side effects after getting a COVID-19 vaccine?
There is no evidence of long-term side effects from getting the COVID-19 vaccine. The benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can prevent a child from getting severely sick. Parents are encouraged to vaccinate their children ages 5 years and older as soon as they can.
Source: CDC

Can COVID-19 vaccines affect fertility or menstruation as my child gets older?
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 or antibodies developed following COVID-19 vaccination will cause any problems with becoming pregnant. Similarly, there is no evidence that the COVID-19 vaccine affects puberty. There is limited research on COVID-19 vaccination and the menstrual cycle. However, research to date has found no meaningful change in menstrual cycle length associated with COVID-19 vaccination.
Source: CDC

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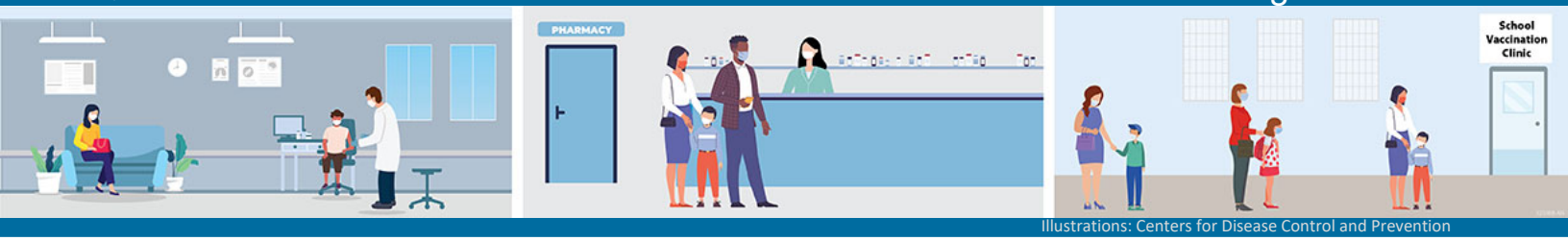

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Are there certain children who shouldn't get a COVID-19 vaccine?
Children who have experienced a severe allergic reaction such as anaphylaxis after a previous COVID-19 vaccine dose or to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine should not be vaccinated. Also, children who experienced an immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a previous dose or have a diagnosed allergy to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine should not be vaccinated. Consult with your child's doctor if the COVID-19 vaccine is right for your child.
Source: CDC

Can COVID-19 vaccines have a negative impact on the heart?
The benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks. Rare cases of myocarditis and pericarditis have been reported in adolescents, but these reactions are rare. In general children ages 5 through 11, have the lowest associated risk for myocarditis than older children. The scientists and researchers continue to study and evaluate for any potential, long-term side effects.
Source: CDC

Is it safe for my child to get a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines, like flu?
Yes, children can get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines, including a flu vaccine, at the same visit. Studies have shown that side effects after getting vaccinated are generally the same when COVID-19 vaccines are given alone or with the flu vaccine. Consult with your child's doctor about scheduling any upcoming or past due vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccine.
Source: CDC

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