

TOP 6 Q&A PARENTS HAVE ABOUT THE COVID VACCINE

Have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine for kids? You're not alone. Here are answers to the most frequent questions parents have about getting their kids vaccinated against COVID-19.

Q: How did the vaccine get made so quickly?

Because COVID-19 is a global emergency, medical researchers around the world worked as hard as they could to make vaccines that would save people's lives. They worked quickly, but didn't cut any corners or skip any steps. There are three main reasons why the vaccine could be developed quickly:

1. Scientists already knew some things about viruses like COVID-19 and vaccines that protect against them. COVID-19 is similar in some ways to other viruses, so scientists already had information about how the virus works and how to fight it. They didn't have to start from scratch.
2. Everyone involved dedicated all their resources and time to developing a COVID-19 vaccine. This includes research institutions, government agencies, charities, and pharmaceutical companies. This allowed researchers to focus on their work right away.
3. Researchers developed the vaccines on parallel tracks. That means that they completed the necessary steps at the same time or with some overlap, including testing the vaccine to make sure it is safe and works well. No steps were skipped.

Q: How do we know that the vaccine is safe?

All vaccines have to be tested for safety and effectiveness before they become available to the public. The COVID-19 vaccine is no different. Tens of thousands of people, including children, volunteered in clinical trials to help make sure the vaccine is safe and works well. Millions of children age 12 to 17 years have safely been vaccinated against COVID-19, and more than 2,000 children age 5 to 11 years have safely received a vaccine in a clinical trial.

Q: Does the vaccine work for kids?

Yes. The vaccine works very well to prevent infection, serious illness, hospitalization, and death in children. Pfizer's clinical trials showed that the vaccine is **more than 90%** effective at keeping kids from getting sick and **100%** effective at preventing serious illness and death.

Q: What are the side effects of the vaccine?

The side effects in children are similar to the side effects that adults feel after vaccination. They can include tiredness, headache, soreness at the injection site, chills, and low grade fever. Younger children tend to have milder side effects than teens and adults. Most side effects are mild and go away on their own after a day or two.

Q: Does the vaccine cause long-term health problems, like changes in fertility?

No. Because of how the vaccine works, scientists don't think it will have long-term side effects. They also don't think it has any impact on fertility. The COVID-19 vaccine, like other vaccines your child may get, gives the body instructions about how to fight a specific virus. The ingredients in the vaccine don't stay in the body after the vaccine teaches the immune system how to fight COVID-19. The vaccine also won't change your child's DNA.

Q: Do kids need the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. Vaccines are the strongest layer of protection we can give children against COVID-19. Recently, COVID-19 rates have been higher in school-aged children than adults. While fewer children get seriously ill with COVID-19 than adults, they still can get sick with the virus and spread it to other people. Some get sick enough to need hospitalization. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine will help your child stay healthy, keep them in school, and protect your family and community.

