

# FAQ: COVID-19 Vaccines for 5-11 year olds

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MANILAQ  
ASSOCIATION

Help protect your whole family and slow the spread of COVID-19 in your community by getting yourself and your children ages 5 years and older vaccinated against COVID-19.

## **Why should my child get vaccinated against COVID-19?**

Although children are at a lower risk of becoming severely ill with COVID-19 compared with adults, children can:

- Be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19
- Get very sick from COVID-19
- Have both short and long-term health complications from COVID-19
- Spread COVID-19 to others

Children with underlying medical conditions are more at risk for severe illness from COVID-19 compared with children without underlying medical conditions. Children who get infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 can also develop serious complications like multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C)—a condition where different body parts become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs.

## **Who is protected once my child is vaccinated?**

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can help protect children ages 5 years and older from getting COVID-19.

- Vaccinating children can help protect family members, including siblings who are not eligible for vaccination and family members who may be at increased risk of getting very sick if they are infected.
- Vaccination can also help keep children from getting seriously sick even if they do get COVID-19.
- Vaccinating children ages 5 years and older can help keep them in school and help them safely participate in sports, playdates, and other group activities.

## Is the shot administered the same as for adults?

- Adolescents ages 12 years and older receive the same dosage of Pfizer vaccine as adults.
- Children ages 5 through 11 years receive one-third of the adult dose of Pfizer vaccine. Smaller needles, designed specifically for children, are used for children ages 5 through 11 years.
- COVID-19 vaccine dosage does not vary by patient weight but by age on the day of vaccination.
- Your child will need a second shot of the Pfizer vaccine three weeks after their first shot.

## How can I help prepare my child for vaccination?

- Talk to your child before vaccination about what to expect.
- It is **not recommended** you give pain relievers before vaccination to try to prevent side effects.
- Tell the doctor or nurse about any allergies your child may have.
- To prevent fainting and injuries related to fainting, your child should be seated or lying down during vaccination and for 15 minutes after the vaccine is given.
- After your child's COVID-19 vaccination, you will be asked to stay for 15–30 minutes so your child can be observed in case they have a severe allergic reaction and need immediate treatment.

## Will my child experience any side effects?

Your child may have some side effects, which are normal signs that their body is building protection.

On the arm where your child got the shot:

- Pain
- Redness
- Swelling

Throughout the rest of their body:

- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Chills
- Fever
- Nausea

Source: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention



*Healthy people, thriving communities.*