

# Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccines

## What Parents/Guardians Should Know

**COVID-19 vaccine now authorized for children ages 5 and up.**

### Why should children get vaccinated?

Since the beginning of the pandemic, over 12 million children in the United States have gotten COVID-19. New COVID-19 variant surges led to peak COVID-19 hospitalizations among youth.

Clinical trials proved that this vaccine works very well at preventing COVID-19 in youth. They'll be much less likely to get seriously ill, be hospitalized, or die from COVID-19.

Check out this [Talking about Vaccines guide](#) for tips on how to have a conversation about vaccines with youth and families.

### How do I get my child vaccinated?

Washington state provides all recommended vaccines at no cost for children through age 18. Ask your child's pediatrician or regular clinic if they carry the COVID-19 vaccine.

Families who do not have a health care provider already can call the **Help Me Grow WA Hotline at 1-800-322-2588** or go to **ParentHelp123.org** to find a health care provider, clinic, or other health resources. This service is free and language assistance is available.

You can also visit [VaccineLocator.doh.wa.gov](#) and use the filter to see a list of places near you that have the pediatric vaccine.

### How will this help at home?

The COVID-19 vaccine can keep kids protected from the disease, meaning indoor gatherings can be safer to host or attend.

Getting vaccinated will help children stay safer and protect family members in the household.



Families should continue following other recommended safety measures for the best protection.

### How many shots do children need?

All children are recommended to receive at least two-doses. Additional doses may be recommended to be considered up-to-date.



- Children **ages 5-11** get a pediatric dose, which is a different amount than the adolescent and adult version.
- Children **ages 12-17** are eligible for the adolescent/adult dose.



Children ages 5+ who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should receive an additional primary dose and children ages 12+ should receive a booster dose. Additional doses for other groups may be recommended in the future.

**To get your questions answered:**



Visit: [VaccinateWA.org/kids](#)



Call: **1-833-VAX-HELP** (1-833-829-4357), Press #

Language assistance is available.

**Vaccinate WA**

[CovidVaccineWA.org](#)

### Is COVID-19 really a risk to my child?

Although fewer children have been infected with COVID-19 compared to adults, children can:

- Be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19
- Get sick or die from COVID-19
- Spread COVID-19 to others
- Get serious complications from COVID-19, such as “long COVID” or a dangerous inflammatory disease called MIS-C

The vaccine was shown to have very few side effects in this population, and it protects them very well from the disease. The benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risk of getting COVID-19.

### Is the vaccine safe for my child?

Yes, the vaccine is considered very safe for children. No serious side effects were detected in clinical trials of the vaccine in youth. The studies are ongoing, and the U.S. has very strong vaccine safety systems to catch any warning signs early.

### What are the common side effects of the vaccine in children?

The health risks if children are infected with COVID-19 are much higher than the risk of vaccine side effects.

Like other vaccines, the most common side effects are a sore arm, tiredness, headache, and muscle pain. These symptoms are usually mild.

[In clinical trials](#) (English only), more children reported side effects after the second dose than after the first dose. Side effects were generally mild to moderate in severity and occurred within two days after vaccination, and most went away within one to two days.

### What do children need to bring to their appointment?

In most cases, parents and guardians will need to provide consent to vaccination for someone under age 18. They should ask the vaccine location what they need for consent.

Clinics may ask for the child’s ID, an insurance card, or Social Security number, but you do not need to give them.

Children do not need to be U.S. citizens to get the vaccine. Vaccine locations cannot ask for anyone’s immigration status. Personal data will only be used for public health purposes.

### I have more questions. Where can I go?

Find answers to more questions at [VaccinateWA.org/kids](https://www.vaccinatewa.org/kids). You can also talk to your child’s regular health care provider.