

COVID-19 Vaccines: Pediatric Provider Toolkit

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**Need something else or have clinical questions?
[Email Covid.Vaccine@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Covid.Vaccine@doh.wa.gov)**

Building Parental/Guardian Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccination



Open the Discussion

**Unsure***Parent/guardian is reluctant to make a firm decision*

APPROACH Acknowledge and address concerns; don't provide reassurance prematurely. (See page 2 for common concerns and FAQs.)

SAY "Sounds like you're feeling unsure. Tell me more about what you've been hearing about the vaccine."

"I also wondered/heard about that. Here's what I learned after looking into it."

INTERNAL REMINDERS

- ✓ Be empathetic and thank parent/guardian for sharing concerns.
- ✓ Link vaccine acceptance to parent/guardian's hopes and goals.
- ✓ Cite your trustworthy sources of information. To facilitate trust, acknowledge uncertainty where it exists.
- ✓ Allow the parent/guardian to bring family or other community members into the decision-making process, if requested.
- ✓ Reinforce your personal decision to get vaccinated.

**Opposed***Parent/guardian declines vaccine*

APPROACH Acknowledge and ask permission to learn more. (See page 2 for common concerns and FAQs.)

SAY "OK, I'd like to learn more about what is most concerning to you. What concerns are keeping you from getting the vaccine for your child?"

Consider the parent/guardian's unique viewpoint. They may have concerns due to personal experiences in the health care system or mistrust because of history of abuse in the medical system due to racism and other forms of discrimination. They could also be concerned about safety due to the speed of the trials, their child's age or disability, disinformation, or mistrust of the government.

INTERNAL REMINDERS

- ✓ Your influence as a messenger matters, you are viewed as a trusted source of information. Ask permission to share your recommendation.
- ✓ If you had similar questions or concerns, share your decision-making thought process.
- ✓ To facilitate trust, acknowledge uncertainty where it exists.
- ✓ Reinforce your personal decision to get vaccinated.
- ✓ Link vaccine acceptance to parent/guardian's hopes and goals.

**Yes**

*Parent/
guardian
wants
vaccination*

**Inclined***Parent/guardian is interested in vaccination*

FOLLOW-UP Thank them for sharing their concerns with you and ask again about willingness to get their child vaccinated.

**Refusing***Parent/guardian is not interested in further discussion*

APPROACH Advise and educate (alternative resources); provide opportunity to revisit discussion and offer additional resources from trusted sources.

SAY "This is definitely your decision. If you have any questions at all, I am here for you and your child."

ASK "Would it be helpful for me to provide more information?"

PROVIDE INFORMATION

- ✓ One sheet handout (variety of separate topics) addressing any concerns that may have been stated.
- ✓ Websites with culturally-appropriate information.
- ✓ Phone number to call with any questions if they want to talk later.

ENCOURAGE AN ACTION STEP

- ✓ Vaccinate same day, or schedule vaccine appointment.
- ✓ Ask them to read information you provide them.
- ✓ Ask them to share the information they learned to support family and friends in making the same decision, if they feel comfortable doing so.

Concerns & Example Responses

They share concerns about fertility or developmental concern with vaccinating children before they reach puberty.

"The COVID-19 vaccine has been monitored closely and there is no evidence that the COVID-19 vaccine causes female or male fertility problems as well as no evidence that it will affect puberty. The ingredients and antibodies developed following the COVID-19 vaccination have not been found to cause any problems with becoming pregnant. Professional medical organizations serving people of reproductive age, including adolescents emphasize that it strongly recommended for all to receive the vaccine."

They shared that they believe there is no point in getting their child vaccinated if they can still get infected.

"I understand. Although there is still a chance of COVID-19 infection after vaccination, the vaccines were designed to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 and are still successful at doing so. If your child does get sick after they're fully vaccinated, they will still have some benefit from the vaccine because they may only get a mild case instead of a serious case."

They expressed concern that they don't want their child to be a research experiment.

"I understand your hesitation, but vaccine developers didn't skip any testing steps following the appropriate safety measures including a rigorous three phase clinical trials process with very clear outcomes. The technology used for the COVID-19 vaccine has been studied for decades. There have been over 13 billion vaccine doses administered safely worldwide and there are very strong vaccine safety systems to catch any warning signs early."

They've shared that their child experienced racism or faced another form of discrimination.

"I'm sorry that happened to your child. It was horrible and wrong. Your experience sounds frustrating and hurtful." After listening and further exploring their concerns, consider saying: "The vaccine will help prevent your child from getting really sick from COVID-19. It is strongly recommended, but completely voluntary."

They mention harmful medical practices or experiments on Black and Indigenous people in the past.

"You're absolutely right. The history of medical harm should not be ignored. Scientists have engaged in many harmful and racist practices in the name of medicine. The COVID-19 vaccine is being handled very differently. Can I tell you what I know about the vaccine and the vaccine trials? I want to make sure this feels like the right decision for you."



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Frequently Asked Questions & Example Responses

Is COVID-19 vaccination safe for my child?

"Yes, the vaccine is considered very safe for children, and I strongly recommend getting your child vaccinated against COVID-19. The FDA approved emergency use authorization based on extensive clinical trials showing the vaccine was safe and effective. No serious side effects were detected in clinical trials of the vaccine in youth and the U.S. has very strong vaccine safety systems to catch any warning signs early."

How severe is COVID-19 in children?

"Children can be infected with COVID-19, get sick or die from COVID-19, spread COVID-19 to others, and get serious complications from COVID-19. New COVID-19 variants are currently responsible for most infections and hospitalizations in the United States. Since the beginning of the pandemic, over 15 million children in the U.S. have gotten COVID-19 and half of reported pediatric COVID-19 deaths in the United States were in children with no underlying health conditions. Vaccination is the best way to keep children healthy and safe."

What are common side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine in children?

"Like other vaccines, the most common side effects are a sore arm, tiredness, headache, and muscle pain, which were generally reported to be mild to moderate in severity and occurred within two days after vaccination, and most went away within one to two days. These symptoms are a sign that the vaccine is prompting an immune response as intended. The health risks if a child is infected with COVID-19 are much higher than the risk of vaccine side effects."

Is it safe to receive other vaccines at the same time as the COVID-19 vaccine?

"Yes. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) changed their recommendations on May 12, 2021. You can now get a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time that you get other vaccines.

You do not need to schedule your child's required school vaccinations or other recommended vaccines separately from COVID-19 vaccination. A COVID-19 vaccine appointment is another opportunity to get your child caught up on all of their recommended vaccines."

What is Myocarditis and is there a connection to COVID-19 vaccination?

"Myocarditis (and pericarditis) are terms to describe inflammation in or around the heart. The body's immune system can often cause this inflammation in response to an infection, such as viruses.

Myocarditis is not very common and rarely fatal, with less than 200,000 cases in the United States each year and less than 2% of these cases fatal. The risk of myocarditis after COVID-19 vaccination is extremely rare, but there have been reported cases. There have been no deaths from myocarditis determined to be caused by COVID-19 vaccination in the United States. An individual is more likely to develop myocarditis after infection with COVID-19 than from the vaccine."

Does the COVID-19 vaccine change my child's DNA? What's in the vaccine?

"The vaccines contain the active ingredient, messenger RNA (mRNA), along with fat, salts, and sugars to protect the mRNA and help it work better in the body. COVID-19 vaccines do not contain any egg proteins, gluten, pork products, metals, tracking devices, or fetal material. COVID-19 mRNA vaccines also do not change or alter your DNA in any way. mRNA vaccines teach our body's cells how to make a protein that triggers an immune response. That immune response and making antibodies is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies."

Does my child need to get vaccinated if they already had COVID-19?

"Yes, your child should still get the COVID-19 vaccine even if they already had COVID-19 but they should wait to receive the vaccine until after they recover and complete their isolation period. For maximum effectiveness, individuals who recently had COVID-19 may consider delaying COVID-19 vaccination by 3 months from the start of their symptoms or positive test. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine after they recover from COVID-19 infection provides added protection to their immune systems. People who already had COVID-19 and do not get vaccinated after their recovery are more likely to get COVID-19 again than those who get vaccinated after their recovery."

For more information and resources, visit: vaccinatewa.org/kids



The best way for parents/guardians to get up-to-date information about when and how to get their child vaccinated is by visiting vaccinatewa.org/kids or by calling the Department of Health phone line 1-800-525-0127, then press #. (For interpretive services, say your language when the call is answered.)

Adapted from:

1. Communication skills for the COVID vaccine. VitalTalk. vitaltalk.org/guides/communication-skills-for-the-covid-vaccine/. Published January 8, 2021.
2. Gagneur A. Motivational interviewing: A powerful tool to address vaccine hesitancy. Can Commun Dis Rep. 2020;46(4):93-97. Published 2020 Apr 2. doi:10.14745/cddr.v46i04a06
3. Opel DJ, Lo B, Peek ME. Addressing Mistrust About COVID-19 Vaccines Among Patients of Color. Ann Intern Med. Published online February 9, 2021 at acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M21-0055. doi:10.7326/m21-0055

2023-2024 COVID-19 Vaccine Product Characteristics and Information

COVID-19 Vaccine Vial Information

Vaccine Manufacturer	Age Group	Vial Cap/Label Color	Dose	Dose Volume	Amount of Diluent Needed per Vial	Doses per Vial/package
Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty 2023-2024 Formula adolescent/adult single-dose vial	12 years+	Gray 	30 mcg	0.3 mL	NO DILUTION	10 single dose vials/package
Pfizer-BioNTech 2023-2024 Formula pediatric single-dose vial	5-11 years	Blue 	10 mcg	0.3 mL	NO DILUTION	10 single dose vials/package
Pfizer-BioNTech 2023-2024 Formula pediatric/infants multi-dose vial	6 months-4 years	Yellow 	3 mcg	0.3 mL	1.1 mL	3 doses/vial
Moderna/Spikevax 2023-2024 Formula adolescent/adult single-dose vial	12 years +	Dark Blue 	50 mcg	0.5mL	NO DILUTION	10 single dose vials/package
Moderna 2023-2024 Formula pediatric single-dose vial*	6 months-11 years	Dark Blue Cap/ Green Label 	25 mcg	0.25mL *vial may contain more than 0.25mL of product	NO DILUTION	10 single dose vials/package
Novavax 2023-2024 Formula adolescent/adult multi-dose vial	12 years +	Royal Blue 	5 mcg rS and 50 mcg of Matric-M adjuvant	0.5 mL	NO DILUTION	5 doses/vial

COVID-19 Vaccine Pre-filled Syringe Information

Vaccine Manufacturer	Age Group	Syringe Cap/Label Color	Dose	Dose Volume	Amount of Diluent Needed per Syringe	Doses per package
Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty 2023-2024 Formula adolescent/adult pre-filled syringes	12 years+	Pink label with DO NOT FREEZE 	30 mcg	0.3 mL	NO DILUTION	10 pre-filled syringes/package

Bivalent mRNA and Original Novavax COVID-19 vaccine formulas are deauthorized and are no longer available in the United States.



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Please review
[CDC's interim COVID-19 immunization schedule](#)
 for ages 6 months and older.

Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccines

What Parents/Guardians Should Know

COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for children ages 6 months and up.

Why should children get vaccinated?

Since the beginning of the pandemic, over 15 million children in the United States have gotten COVID-19. While COVID-19 is often milder in children than adults, children can still get very sick and spread it to friends and family.

New COVID-19 variants are currently responsible for most infections and hospitalizations in the United States. Clinical trials proved that this vaccine works very well at preventing serious illness and hospitalizations from COVID-19 in youth.

Vaccination is the best way to keep children healthy and safe.

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.

Do children need multiple doses?



- Children ages **6 months- 4 years** get a 3-dose Pfizer series or a 2-dose Moderna series
- Children **ages 5 years and older** get a single dose of a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine

Children 6 months+ who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should get a 3-dose series and may get additional doses at least 2 months after their last dose.

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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PEDIATRIC COVID-19 VACCINE

Is COVID-19 really a risk to my child?

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

- 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](#), children reported 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.

I have more questions. Where can I go?

Find answers to more questions at **VaccinateWA.org/kids**. You can also talk to your child’s regular health care provider.



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Vacunas pediátricas contra el COVID-19

Lo que deberían saber los padres y tutores

La vacunación contra el COVID-19 ya está autorizada para los niños mayores de 6 meses.

¿Por qué deberían vacunarse los niños?

Desde el comienzo de la pandemia, cerca de 15 millones de niños en Estados Unidos contrajeron COVID-19. Si, el COVID-19 suele ser más leve en los niños que en los adultos, pero los niños aún pueden enfermarse gravemente y transmitirlo a amigos y familiares.

Las nuevas variantes de COVID-19 son responsables de la mayoría de las infecciones y hospitalizaciones en Estados Unidos ahorita. Los ensayos clínicos demostraron que esta vacuna funciona muy bien en la prevención de enfermedades graves y hospitalizaciones por COVID-19 en los jóvenes.

La vacuna es la mejor manera de mantener a los niños sanos y seguros.

¿Cómo vacuno a mi hijo?

El estado de Washington proporciona todas las vacunas recomendadas sin costo para niños hasta los 18 años. Pregúntele al médico clínico o pediatra habitual de su hijo si aplica la vacuna contra el COVID-19.

Las familias que aún no tienen un proveedor de atención médica pueden llamar a la línea directa de Help Me Grow WA al 1-800-322-2588 o visitar ParentHelp123.org para encontrar un proveedor de atención médica, una clínica u otros recursos de salud. Este servicio es gratuito y hay disponible asistencia con el idioma.

También puede visitar VaccineLocator.doh.wa.gov y usar el filtro para ver una lista de lugares cerca de usted que tienen la vacuna pediátrica.

¿Cómo ayudará esto en casa?

La vacuna contra el COVID-19 puede proteger a los niños de la enfermedad, lo que significa que puede ser más seguro participar en reuniones en espacios cerrados.

Vacunarse ayudara a los niños a estar más seguros y proteger a los miembros de la familia en el hogar.



Las familias deberían seguir respetando otras medidas de seguridad recomendadas para tener la mejor protección.

¿Qué vacuna deberían recibir los niños?



- Los niños de **6 meses a 4 años** reciben una serie de Pfizer de 3 dosis o una serie Moderna de 2 dosis
- Los niños de **5 años en adelante** reciben una dosis única de Pfizer o de Moderna

Los niños de 6 meses o más que estén moderada o gravemente inmunodeprimidos deben recibir una serie de 3 dosis y pueden recibir dosis adicionales al menos 2 meses después de su última dosis.

Para obtener respuestas a sus preguntas:



Visite VaccinateWA.org/kids



Llame al 1-833-VAX-HELP (1-833-829-4357) y presione #

Se ofrece asistencia lingüística.

**Vacúnate
WA**

VacunaDeCovidWA.org

¿Es el COVID-19 realmente un riesgo para mi hijo?

Aunque menos niños y adolescentes se infectaron con la COVID-19 en comparación con los adultos, lo siguiente es posible en niños:

- que se infecten con el virus que provoca el COVID-19;
- que se enfermen o mueran de COVID-19;
- que propaguen el COVID-19 a otros;
- que tengan complicaciones graves de el COVID-19, como “COVID larga” o una enfermedad inflamatoria peligrosa llamada MIS-C (por su sigla en inglés, síndrome inflamatorio multisistémico en niños).

Se demostró que la vacuna tiene muy pocos efectos secundarios en esta población y que protege muy bien a los niños de la enfermedad. Los beneficios de la vacunación superan con creces los riesgos de contraer COVID-19.

¿La vacuna es segura para mi hijo?

Sí, se considera que la vacuna es muy segura para los niños. No se detectaron efectos secundarios graves en los ensayos clínicos de la vacuna en niños. Hay estudios en curso y EE. UU. cuenta con sistemas de seguridad de vacunas muy robustos para detectar tempranamente cualquier advertencia.

¿Cuáles son los efectos secundarios comunes de la vacuna en los niños?

Los riesgos de salud para un niño infectado con COVID-19 son mucho más altos que el riesgo de los efectos secundarios de la vacuna.

Como otras vacunas, los efectos secundarios más frecuentes son dolor en el brazo, cansancio, dolor de cabeza y dolor muscular. Estos síntomas suelen ser leves.

[En los ensayos clínicos](#), niños reportan efectos secundarios fueron de leves a moderados, y ocurrieron dentro de los dos días posteriores a la vacunación y la mayoría desaparecieron en uno o dos días.

¿Qué deben llevar los niños a su cita?

En la mayoría de los casos, los padres y los tutores tendrán que brindar su consentimiento para vacunar a alguien menor de 18 años. Deberían preguntarle al centro de vacunación qué necesitan para el consentimiento.

Tengo más preguntas. ¿A dónde puedo ir?

Puede consultar las respuestas a más preguntas en [VaccinateWA.org/kids](#). También puede hablar con el proveedor de atención médica habitual de su hijo.



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Para solicitar este documento en otro formato, llame al 1-800-525-0127. Las personas con sordera o problemas de audición deben llamar al 711 (Washington Relay) o enviar un correo electrónico a civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions

COVID-19 Vaccine Safety and Effectiveness for Children and Adolescents



Q: Do you think I should get my child vaccinated against COVID-19?

A: I strongly recommend your child get vaccinated against COVID-19.

- The vaccine will help lower the chances of getting COVID-19.
- If your child still gets infected after they get vaccinated, the vaccine will reduce their chance of serious illness.
- Getting vaccinated may also help protect people around them

Q: Is COVID-19 a risk to my child?

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

- 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

Q: Is COVID-19 vaccination safe for my child?

A: Yes, the FDA approved and authorized COVID-19 vaccines based on extensive clinical trials showing the vaccine is safe and effective for children. No serious side effects were detected in clinical trials of the vaccine in children. The studies are ongoing, and the U.S. has very strong vaccine safety systems to catch any warning signs early.

Q: What are common side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine in children?

A: Like other vaccines, the most common side effects are a sore arm, tiredness, headache, and muscle pain. Reported side effects in children were generally mild to moderate in severity and occurred within two days after vaccination, and most went away within one to two days. These symptoms are a sign that the vaccine is prompting an immune response as needed. The health risks if children are infected with COVID-19 are much higher than the risk of vaccine side effects.

Q: Do COVID-19 mRNA vaccines change your DNA? What's in the vaccine?

A: The vaccines contain the active ingredient, messenger RNA (mRNA), along with fat, salts, and sugars to protect the mRNA and help it work better in the body. COVID-19 mRNA vaccines do not contain any egg proteins, gluten, pork products, metals, tracking devices, fetal material, and do not change or alter your DNA in any way. mRNA vaccines teach our body's cells how to make a protein that triggers an immune response. That immune response and making antibodies is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies.

Q: What is VAERS? I am hearing reports that children have died from the COVID-19 vaccine.

A: There have not been any verified reports of children dying from COVID-19 vaccination. VAERS is an early warning system used to monitor adverse events that happen after vaccination and one of the several systems CDC and U.S. FDA use to monitor vaccines. Having a report to VAERS doesn't mean that the vaccine caused the problem. It warns the experts of potential problems they may need to assess, and it alerts them to further action, if needed. CDC provides timely updates on selected adverse events reported after COVID-19 vaccination.

Q: How did they make and test the COVID-19 vaccines so quickly?

A: Scientists have been working on this mRNA technology for two decades, so it's been a long time in the making. Typically, vaccine development requires much time for fundraising to complete all the steps, but this time funding was not a barrier as the whole world was invested in finding a safe option for prevention of coronavirus disease. The vaccines went through the same rigorous three phase clinical trials process as all other vaccines.

Q: Can my child get the COVID-19 vaccine if they have an underlying health condition?

A: Most people with underlying health or medical conditions can get COVID-19 vaccines. In fact, many underlying conditions put your child at high risk of complications from COVID-19 disease, so the vaccine is even more important to keep your child from getting sick. Let your child's health care provider know about all their allergies and health conditions before getting vaccinated.

Q: What is Myocarditis and is there a connection to COVID-19 vaccination?

A: Myocarditis (and pericarditis) are terms to describe inflammation in or around the heart. There have been no deaths from myocarditis determined to be caused by COVID-19 vaccination in the United States. An individual is more likely to develop myocarditis after infection with COVID-19 than from the vaccine and the strong benefits of the vaccines far outweigh the low risk of myocarditis.

Q: Why should my child get vaccinated against COVID-19 if they can still get infected?

A: Although there is still a chance of a breakthrough COVID-19 infection after vaccination, the vaccines were designed to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 and are still successful at doing so. If your child does get sick after they're fully vaccinated, they will still have some benefit from the vaccine because they may only get a mild case instead of a serious case.

Q: What are the long-term side effects of COVID-19 vaccination for my child?

A: Serious side effects that could cause a long-term health problem are extremely unusual following any vaccination. Almost all reactions to the COVID-19 vaccine have been mild, like fatigue or a sore arm, and only last a couple of days. Long term side effects usually happen within eight weeks of vaccination which is why the manufacturers were required to wait at least eight weeks after clinical trials before applying for Emergency Use Authorization. The health risks if children are infected with COVID-19 are much higher than the risk of vaccine side effects.

Q: Why should my child get vaccinated against COVID-19 if children are not as susceptible to severe illness from COVID-19?

A: Since the beginning of the pandemic, over 15 million children in the U.S. have gotten COVID-19. While COVID-19 is often milder in children than adults, children can still get very sick and spread it to friends and family. Half of reported pediatric COVID-19 deaths in the United States were in children with no underlying health conditions. New COVID-19 variants are currently responsible for most infections and hospitalizations in the United States. Vaccination is the best way to keep children healthy and safe.

Q: Does my child need to get vaccinated if they already had COVID-19?

A: Yes, your child should still get the COVID-19 vaccine even if they already had COVID-19 but should wait to receive the vaccine after they recover and [complete their isolation period](#). Getting a COVID-19 vaccine after an individual recovers from COVID-19 infection provides added protection to their immune systems. People who already had COVID-19 and do not get vaccinated after their recovery are more likely to get COVID-19 again than those who get vaccinated after their recovery. For maximum effectiveness, individuals who recently had COVID-19 may consider delaying any COVID-19 vaccination by 3 months from the start of their symptoms or positive test.

Q: How long does COVID-19 vaccination protection last?

A: Scientists are continuing to monitor how long COVID-19 vaccine protection lasts. Recent studies show that protection against the virus may decrease over time, but vaccines are still preventing against serious illness, hospitalizations, and death from COVID-19. This reduction in protection has led CDC to recommend that everyone ages 6 months and older get an updated 2023-2024 dose.

Q: Which vaccine brand can my child get?

A: At this time, the Pfizer-BioNTech (Pfizer) vaccine and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine brands are authorized for children ages 6 months and older. The Novavax vaccine is available for ages 12+ under an EUA. Children 6 months-4 years must receive the same vaccine manufacturer for all doses. Children aged 5 years and older may receive any vaccine manufacturer or brand currently available, regardless of previous doses received.

Q: Can my child receive the COVID-19 vaccine when they get other vaccines like the flu shot?

A: Yes, your child can get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines, including a flu vaccine, at the same visit. Experience with other vaccines has shown that the way our bodies develop protection, known as an immune response, and possible side effects after getting vaccinated are generally the same when given alone or with other vaccines. A COVID-19 vaccine appointment is another opportunity to get your child caught up on all their recommended vaccines.

Q: Is the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 6 months through 11 years old the same one that is given to adolescents and adults?

A: The COVID -19 vaccine for children 6 months-11 years old has the same active ingredients as for people ages 12 and older. Children ages 6 months – 11 receive an age-appropriate dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine which are stored in a separate vial than mRNA COVID-19 vaccines for ages 12 and up.

Q: Is there a fertility or developmental concern with vaccinating children before they reach puberty?

A: No. There is no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause female or male fertility problems. The vaccine ingredients or antibodies developed following COVID-19 vaccination have not been found to cause any problems with becoming pregnant. Professional medical organizations serving people of reproductive age, including adolescents emphasize there is no evidence that the COVID-19 vaccine causes infertility and strongly recommend it for both men and women.

Q: What's in the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine?

A: The Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is a protein subunit-based vaccine that contains an additive, along with fats and sugars to help the vaccine work better in the body. This vaccine does not use mRNA. The ingredients are all safe and needed for the vaccine to do its job. It does not contain human cells (including fetal cells), the virus that causes COVID-19, any animal by-products including pork products, latex, preservatives, or tracking devices. It was not grown in eggs and contains no egg products.

Q: What can I do to prepare my child for their COVID-19 vaccine shots.

A: It is very common for children to experience feelings of fear or stress when receiving vaccines. Visit these resources below to learn ways you can assist your child through the vaccine process:

- [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children: Checklist for Parents and Caregivers \(wa.gov\)](#)
- [Before, During, and After Your Child's Shots | CDC](#)
- [9 Things to Make Shots Less Stressful for You and Your Baby | CDC](#)
- [How to Make Shots Hurt Less for Kids \(health.com\)](#)
- [Helping a Child Who Is Afraid of Shots \(webmd.com\)](#)

Q: What can I do as a provider to alleviate fear and/or pain for the youth receiving their vaccines?

A: There are methods that providers can incorporate that have been shown to alleviate some of the patient discomfort or pain associated with vaccinations. Visit the resource below to learn more:

- [ID Snapshot: How to reduce pain during vaccination | AAP News | American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

Preguntas Frecuentes:

Seguridad y Eficacia de la Vacuna Contra el COVID-19 para Niños y Adolescentes



P: ¿Crees que debo vacunar a mi hijo contra el COVID-19?

R: Sí, recomiendo fuertemente que su hijo se vacune contra el COVID-19.

- La vacuna ayudará a reducir las posibilidades de contraer COVID-19.
- Si su hijo aún se infecta con el virus después de recibir la vacuna, la vacuna puede prevenir una enfermedad grave.
- Vacunarse también puede ayudar a proteger a las personas que los rodean.

P: ¿El COVID-19 es un riesgo para mi hijo?

R: Aunque se han infectado menos niños con COVID-19 en comparación con los adultos, los niños pueden:

- Enfermarse o morir de COVID-19.
- Propagar el COVID-19 a otros.
- Tener complicaciones graves de COVID-19, como "COVID largo" o una enfermedad inflamatoria peligrosa llamada MIS-C.

P: ¿Es segura la vacuna contra el COVID-19 para mi hijo?

R: Sí, la FDA aprobó y autorizó las vacunas contra el COVID-19 basándose en ensayos clínicos exhaustivos que demostraron que la vacuna es segura y eficaz para los niños. No se detectaron efectos secundarios graves en los ensayos clínicos de la vacuna en niños. Los estudios están en curso y EE. UU. tiene sistemas de seguridad de vacunas muy sólidos para detectar cualquier señal de advertencia a tiempo.

P: ¿Cuáles son los efectos secundarios comunes de la vacuna contra el COVID-19 en los niños?

R: Igual a otras vacunas, los efectos secundarios más comunes son dolor en el brazo, cansancio, dolor de cabeza y dolor muscular. Los efectos secundarios informados en los niños fueron generalmente de gravedad leve a moderada y ocurrieron dentro de los dos días posteriores a la vacunación, y la mayoría desaparecieron dentro de uno o dos días. Estos síntomas son una señal de que la vacuna está provocando una respuesta inmunitaria según sea necesario. Los riesgos para la salud si los niños se infectan con COVID-19 son mucho mayores que el riesgo de los efectos secundarios de la vacuna.

P: ¿Las vacunas de ARNm contra el COVID-19 cambian su ADN? ¿Qué contiene la vacuna?

R: Las vacunas contienen el ingrediente activo, el ARN mensajero (ARNm), junto con grasas, sales y azúcar para proteger el ARNm y ayudarlo a funcionar mejor en el cuerpo. Las vacunas de ARNm de COVID-19 no contienen proteínas de huevo, gluten, productos de cerdo, metales, dispositivos de seguimiento, material fetal y tampoco cambian ni alteran su ADN de ninguna manera. Las vacunas de ARNm enseñan a las células de nuestro cuerpo cómo producir una proteína que desencadena una respuesta inmunitaria. Esta respuesta inmunológica y la producción de anticuerpos es lo que nos protege de infectarnos si el virus real ingresa a nuestros cuerpos.

P: ¿Qué es VAERS? He escuchado que unos niños han muerto por la vacuna contra el COVID-19.

R: No ha habido informes verificados de niños que han muerto a causa de la vacunación contra el COVID-19. VAERS es un sistema de alerta temprana utilizado para monitorear los eventos adversos que ocurren después de la vacunación y uno de los sistemas que los CDC y la FDA de los Estados Unidos usan para monitorear las vacunas. Tener un informe al VAERS no significa que la vacuna haya causado el problema. Advierte a los expertos de los posibles problemas que pueden necesitar evaluar, y les alerta sobre nuevas acciones, si es necesario. Los CDC proporcionan actualizaciones oportunas sobre eventos adversos seleccionados reportados después de la vacunación contra el COVID-19.

P: ¿Cómo hicieron y probaron las vacunas el COVID-19 tan rápido?

R: Los científicos han estado trabajando en esta tecnología de ARNm durante dos décadas, por lo que lleva mucho tiempo en desarrollo. Por lo general, el desarrollo de vacunas requiere mucho tiempo para que la recaudación de fondos complete todos los pasos, pero esta vez la financiación no fue una barrera, ya que todo el mundo invirtió en encontrar una opción segura para la prevención del Coronavirus. Las vacunas pasaron por el mismo proceso riguroso de ensayos clínicos de tres fases que todas las demás vacunas.

P: ¿Mi hijo puede recibir la vacuna contra el COVID-19 si tiene una condición de salud subyacente?

R: La mayoría de las personas con condiciones médicas o de salud subyacentes pueden vacunarse contra el COVID-19. De hecho, muchas condiciones subyacentes ponen a su hijo en alto riesgo de complicaciones por la enfermedad de COVID-19, por lo que la vacuna es aún más importante para evitar que su hijo se enferme. Informe al proveedor de atención médica de su hijo sobre todas sus alergias y condiciones de salud antes de vacunarla.

P: ¿Qué es la miocarditis y existe una conexión con la vacunación contra el COVID-19?

R: Miocarditis (y pericarditis) son términos para describir la inflamación en o alrededor del corazón. No ha habido muertes por miocarditis que se determine que son causadas por la vacuna contra el COVID-19 en los Estados Unidos. Es más probable que un individuo desarrolle miocarditis después de la infección con COVID-19 que por la vacuna y los fuertes beneficios de las vacunas superan el bajo riesgo de miocarditis.

P: ¿Por qué se debe vacunar mi hijo contra el COVID-19, si aún puede infectarse?

R: Si, todavía existe la posibilidad de una infección de COVID-19 después de recibir la vacuna. Las vacunas se diseñaron para prevenir enfermedades graves, hospitalizaciones y muertes por COVID-19 y todavía tienen éxito al hacerlo. Si su hijo se enferma después de haber recibido todas las vacunas, todavía se beneficiará de la vacuna porque es posible que solo tenga un caso leve en lugar de un caso grave.

P: ¿Cuáles son los efectos secundarios a largo plazo de la vacuna contra el COVID-19 para mi hijo?

R: Los efectos secundarios graves que podrían causar un problema de salud a largo plazo son extremadamente inusuales después de cualquier vacunación. Casi todas las reacciones a la vacuna COVID-19 han sido leves, como fatiga o dolor en el brazo, y solo duran un par de días. Los efectos secundarios a largo plazo generalmente ocurren dentro de las ocho semanas posteriores a la vacunación, por lo que los fabricantes debían esperar al menos ocho semanas después de los ensayos clínicos antes de solicitar la Autorización de uso de emergencia. Los riesgos para la salud si los niños se infectan con COVID-19 son mucho mayores que el riesgo de los efectos secundarios de la vacuna.

P: ¿Por qué se debe vacunar mi hijo contra el COVID-19 si los niños no son tan susceptibles a una enfermedad grave por el COVID-19?

R: Desde el comienzo de la pandemia, más de 15 millones de niños en los EE. UU. se han contagiado de COVID-19. Si, el COVID-19 suele ser más leve en los niños que en los adultos, pero los niños aún pueden enfermarse gravemente y transmitirlo a amigos y familiares. La mitad de las muertes pediátricas por COVID-19 comunicadas en Estados Unidos se debieron a niños sin enfermedades previas. Las nuevas variantes de COVID-19 son más peligrosos e infecciosas para los niños que las cepas originales. La vacuna es la mejor manera de mantener a los niños sanos y seguros.

P: ¿Mi hijo necesita vacunarse si ya tuvo COVID-19?

R: Sí, su hijo aún debe recibir la vacuna contra el COVID-19 incluso si ya tuvo COVID-19 pero deben esperar para recibir la vacuna hasta después de recuperarse y [completar el periodo de aislamiento](#). Recibir una vacuna contra el COVID-19 después de que una persona se recupera de la infección de COVID-19 brinda protección adicional a su sistema inmunológico. Las personas que ya tuvieron COVID-19 y no se vacunan después de su recuperación tienen más probabilidades de volver a contraer el COVID-19 que aquellas que se vacunan después de su recuperación. Para lograr la máxima eficacia, las personas que recientemente tuvieron COVID-19 pueden considerar retrasar cualquier vacuna contra el Covid-19, incluyendo la dosis de refuerzo actualizada, por 3 meses desde el inicio de los síntomas o la prueba positiva.

P: ¿Cuánto dura la protección de la vacuna contra el COVID-19?

R: Los científicos continúan monitoreando cuánto tiempo dura la protección de la vacuna contra el COVID-19. Estudios recientes muestran que la protección contra el virus puede disminuir con el tiempo, pero las vacunas aún previenen contra enfermedades graves, hospitalizaciones y muertes por COVID-19. Esta reducción de la protección ha llevado a que el CDC recomiende que todas las personas a partir de los 6 meses de edad reciban una dosis actualizada de 2023-2024.

P: ¿Qué marca de vacuna puede recibir mi hijo?

R: En este momento, las marcas de vacuna Pfizer-BioNTech (Pfizer) y Moderna COVID-19 están autorizadas para niños de 6 meses en adelante. La vacuna Novavax está disponible para niños de 12+ años bajo EUA. Los niños de 6 meses a 4 años deben recibir el mismo fabricante de vacunas para todas las dosis. Los niños a partir de 5 años pueden recibir cualquier fabricante o marca de vacuna disponible actualmente, independientemente de las dosis anteriores recibidas.

P: ¿Puede mi hijo recibir la vacuna contra el COVID-19 cuando recibe otras vacunas como la vacuna contra la gripe?

R: Sí, su hijo puede recibir la vacuna contra el COVID-19 y otras vacunas, incluida la vacuna contra la gripe, en la misma visita. La experiencia con otras vacunas ha demostrado que la forma en que nuestros cuerpos desarrollan protección, conocida como respuesta inmunitaria, y los posibles efectos secundarios después de vacunarse son generalmente los mismos cuando se administran solos o con otras vacunas. Una cita para la vacuna contra el COVID-19 es otra oportunidad para que su hijo este al día con todas las vacunas recomendadas.

P: ¿La vacuna contra el COVID-19 de ARNm para niños de 6 meses a 11 años es la misma que se administra a los adolescentes y adultos?

R: La vacuna contra el COVID-19 para niños de 6 meses a 11 años tiene los mismos ingredientes activos que para personas de 12 años en adelante. Los niños de 6 meses a 11 años reciben una dosis apropiada para su edad de la vacuna Pfizer-BioNTech o Moderna que se almacena en un vial separado de la vacuna para mayores de 12 años.

P: ¿Hay algún problema de fertilidad o de desarrollo al vacunar a los niños antes de que lleguen a la pubertad?

R: No. No hay evidencia que ninguna vacuna, incluidas las vacunas contra el COVID-19, cause problemas de fertilidad en la mujer o el hombre. No se ha encontrado que los ingredientes de la vacuna o los anticuerpos desarrollados después de la vacunación con COVID-19 causen ningún problema para quedar embarazada. Las organizaciones médicas profesionales que atienden a personas en edad reproductiva, incluidos los adolescentes, enfatizan que no hay evidencia de que la vacuna COVID-19 cause infertilidad y la recomiendan enfáticamente tanto para hombres como para mujeres.

P: ¿Qué puedo hacer como proveedor para aliviar el miedo y/o el dolor de los jóvenes que reciben sus vacunas?

R: Existen métodos que los proveedores pueden incorporar y que han demostrado aliviar algunas de las molestias o el dolor del paciente asociados con las vacunas. Visite el siguiente recurso para obtener más información:

- [ID Snapshot: How to reduce pain during vaccination | AAP News | American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (solo en inglés)

P: ¿Qué puedo hacer para preparar a mi hijo para las vacunas contra el COVID-19?

R: Es muy común que los niños tengan miedo o estrés al recibir vacunas. Visite estos recursos a continuación para conocer las formas en que puede ayudar a su hijo durante el proceso de vacunación:

- [Vacunación COVID-19 para niños: Guía para padres y cuidadores \(wa.gov\)](#)
- [Antes, durante y después de la vacunación | CDC](#)
- [9 cosas para que las inyecciones sean menos estresantes para usted y su bebé | Padres | Vacunas | CDC](#)
- [How to Make Shots Hurt Less for Kids \(health.com\)](#) (solo en inglés)
- [Helping a Child Who Is Afraid of Shots \(webmd.com\)](#) (solo en inglés)

P: ¿Qué contiene la vacuna contra el COVID-19 de Novavax?

R: La vacuna contra el COVID-19 de Novavax es una vacuna basada en subunidades de proteínas que contiene un aditivo, junto con grasas y azúcares para ayudar a que la vacuna funcione mejor en el cuerpo. Esta vacuna no usa mRNA. Todos los ingredientes son seguros y necesarios para que la vacuna haga su trabajo. No contiene células humanas (incluyendo células fetales), el virus que causa el COVID-19, ningún subproducto animal, incluidos productos de cerdo, látex, conservantes o aparatos de seguimiento. No se cultivó en huevos y no contiene productos de huevo.

Communication Samples

Ways for you to tell your patients' parents/guardians about COVID-19 vaccine availability for kids 6 months and older.

Text messages

Note to providers: In addition to these promotional texts, we encourage you to use the reminder/recall features of your electronic health system or the Washington State Immunization Information System to bring in any patients ages 6 months or older due for COVID-19 vaccines.

English

Sample 1, refer for information:

Did you know that updated COVID-19 vaccines are now available and safe for everyone 6 months and up? Get your questions answered at VaccinateWA.org/kids.

Sample 2, encourage vaccination at your clinic:

Help keep your family safe! Bring your child ages 6 months+ in for an updated COVID-19 vaccine now. Call <insert your phone number or link your scheduling website> for an appointment.

Sample 3, encourage vaccination at another location:

Help keep your family safe! We recommend updated COVID-19 vaccines for kids ages 6 months+. Book an appointment at VaccineLocator.doh.wa.gov.

Spanish

Sample 1, refer for information:

¿Sabía que las vacunas contra el COVID-19 actualizadas están disponibles y son seguras para todas las personas de 6 meses en adelante? Obtenga respuestas a sus preguntas en VaccinateWA.org/kids.

Sample 2, encourage vaccination at your clinic:

¡Ayude a mantener a su familia segura! Traiga a su hijo de 6 meses en adelante para que reciba una vacuna actualizada contra el COVID-19 ahora. Llame a/o visite <inserte su número de teléfono o vincule a su sitio web de programación de citas> para hacer una cita.

Sample 3, encourage vaccination at another location:

¡Ayude a mantener a su familia segura! Recomendamos la vacuna actualizada contra el COVID-19 para niños de 6 meses +. Haga una cita en VaccineLocator.doh.wa.gov.

Communication Samples

Ways for you to tell your patients' parents/guardians about COVID-19 vaccine availability for kids 6 months and older.

On-hold messaging

English

Did you hear the recent news? For everyone 5 years and older, you just need one updated dose to be up to date with COVID-19 vaccination! Updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines are now available and safe for everyone 6 months and up. To stay up to date, schedule your appointment today at no cost. For more information, ask your provider about getting vaccinated today or please visit covidvaccinewa.org.

Spanish

¿Escuchaste las noticias recientes? ¡Para todas las personas de 5 años en adelante, solo se necesita una dosis actualizada para estar al día con la vacuna contra el COVID-19! Las vacunas actualizadas 2023-2024 de COVID-19 ahora están disponibles y son seguras para todas las personas de 6 meses en adelante. Para mantenerse al día, programe su cita hoy sin costo alguno. Para obtener más información, pregúntele a su proveedor acerca de cómo vacunarse hoy o visite vacunadecovidwa.org

Communication Samples

Ways for you to tell your patients' parents/guardians about COVID-19 vaccine availability for kids 6 months and older.

Drop-in newsletter article

Note to providers: You may replace the Vaccine Locator section below with your own clinic information. And if you want a longer article, add more information using the talking points included in this toolkit.

English

Updated COVID-19 vaccines are now available and safe for everyone 6 months and up.

Although fewer children have been infected with COVID-19 than adults, children can be infected with the virus, spread the virus to others, and get sick or die from COVID-19. Therefore, it's important for our whole community that all eligible people—adults and children—stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccination.

Updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines are now available for everyone 6 months and up and enhance protection against newer variants currently responsible for most infections and hospitalizations in the United States. The updated vaccines are safe and effective and modified for this age group: same ingredients, but a smaller dose. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have recommended COVID-19 vaccination for children after carefully reviewing and discussing clinical trial data featuring the vaccine in children.

You may have questions about the vaccine for your children. Visit VaccinateWA.org/kids to learn more. When you and your child are ready to get the vaccine, check out VaccineLocator.wa.gov and filter by age to find locations near you.

Communication Samples

Ways for you to tell your patients' parents/guardians about COVID-19 vaccine availability for kids 6 months and older.

Drop-in newsletter article continued

Spanish

Las vacunas actualizadas de COVID-19 ahora están disponibles y son seguras para todas las personas de 6 meses en adelante.

Aunque menos niños que adultos se han infectado con COVID-19, los niños sí se pueden infectar por el virus, transmitirlo a otros y enfermarse o morir de COVID-19. Por lo tanto, es importante para toda nuestra comunidad, que todas las personas elegibles—tanto niño y como adultos—se mantengan al día con la vacuna contra el COVID-19.

Las vacunas contra el COVID-19 actualizadas 2023-2024 ya están disponibles para todas las personas de los 6 meses en adelante y mejoran la protección contra las nuevas variantes actualmente responsables de la mayoría de las infecciones y hospitalizaciones en Estados Unidos. Las vacunas actualizadas son seguras y efectivas y están modificadas para este grupo de edad: son los mismos ingredientes, pero una dosis más pequeña. Los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC, por sus siglas en inglés) de EE. UU. recomendaron la vacunación contra el COVID-19 para niños después de revisar y analizar detenidamente los datos de los ensayos clínicos con la vacuna en niños.

Es posible que tenga preguntas sobre la vacuna para sus niños. Visite VaccinateWA.org/kids para obtener más información. Cuando usted y su niño estén listos para recibir la vacuna, consulte VaccineLocator.doh.wa.gov y filtre por edades para encontrar citas cercanas a usted.

Printable Recognition Certificate for Kids



Talking Points

Key Points

- At this time, the Pfizer-BioNTech (Pfizer) vaccine and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine brands are authorized for children ages 6 months and older. The Novavax vaccine is available for ages 12+ under an EUA.
- The updated COVID-19 vaccine will restore and enhance protection against newer variants currently responsible for most infections and hospitalizations in the United States.
- Children 6 months+ who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should get a 3-dose series and may get additional doses at least 2 months after their last dose.
- The vaccine can help keep your child and other family members healthy and is widely available in Washington state at no cost to you.
- A review of the data showed that COVID-19 vaccines for ages 6 months and up are not only effective but safe, and adverse events are rare.

Additional Points

- Children can also spread COVID-19 to others and develop serious complications from COVID-19, such as “long COVID” or a dangerous inflammatory disease called MIS-C.
- We know vaccine is the best protection available and want to be sure all children in Washington state can be served. While we recognize not all parents or guardians may choose vaccination immediately, we are actively working with health care providers, community partners, schools, and other partners to support parents in their decision-making.
- DOH actively partners with schools, pediatricians, and mobile teams to bring the vaccine to families, including through Care-a-Van events. Vaccines are also available for certain age groups at pharmacies.
- Vaccine Locator has a filter to show clinics that provide vaccine to children.

Resources

Resources

- [Vaccinating Youth Page for Providers](#)
- [CDC Vaccines for Children and Teens Page](#)
- [What Parents/Guardians Should Know about Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination \(PDF\)](#)
- [Pediatric Provider Discussion Guide: Building Parental/Guardian Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccination \(PDF\)](#)
- [Myocarditis after COVID-19 Vaccination: What Parents and Young Adults Should Know \(PDF\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children: A Checklist for Parents and Caregivers \(PDF\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Youth Understanding Consent \(PDF\)](#)
- [Sample Consent for Minor Vaccination \(PDF\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs \(PDF\)](#)
- [Printable vaccination recognition certificate for kids \(PDF\) | Spanish](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines: Pediatric Vaccine School Toolkit \(PDF\)](#)
- [School K-12 Resources and Sample Letters](#)

Need something else or have clinical questions?
[Email Covid.Vaccine@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Covid.Vaccine@doh.wa.gov)