



COVID-19 Vaccines

What Parents Need to Know

VACCINES PROTECT AGAINST THE WORST OUTCOMES OF COVID.

- Though COVID-19 is usually milder in children, even healthy children can get very sick, go to the hospital, or die from COVID-19. Children can also get long-term mental and physical health problems from COVID-19 (called long COVID).
- The COVID-19 vaccine reduces the risk of getting very sick from COVID-19. It also lowers the risk of getting long COVID.
- The COVID-19 vaccines are updated to protect against more recent strains of the virus.



UPDATED 2023-2024 COVID-19 VACCINES ARE RECOMMENDED FOR ALL CHILDREN AGES 6 MONTHS AND OLDER.

- **Children 6 months to 4** should get at least 1 dose of the updated 2023-2024 Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. They may need additional doses based on how many doses they received before.
- **Children 5+** should get 1 dose of the updated 2023-2024 Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Adolescents 12+** can receive Pfizer, Moderna or Novavax vaccine. Previously vaccinated adolescents 12+ who want to receive the Novavax vaccine should receive 1 dose of the updated Novavax vaccine. Unvaccinated teens who want to receive the Novavax vaccine should receive 2 doses of the updated Novavax vaccine.
- Children who **already had COVID** should still get vaccinated.
- Children who are moderately or severely immunocompromised may need additional doses of vaccine.
- COVID-19 vaccines can be given **at the same time** as other routine vaccines, including flu vaccine. For more information, talk to your doctor or visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccine](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccine).



HOW TO GET A VACCINE

- Visit publichealth.lacounty.gov/vaccines/ to find a site near you. Make sure they have the right vaccine for your child's age and ask about **parent/caregiver consent**. Most pharmacies cannot vaccinate children under 3.
- Call the DPH Vaccine Call Center at **1-833-540-0473** or **2-1-1** if you need help finding a vaccine, or to request in-home vaccination.
- Vaccines are covered by insurance. If your child is uninsured or underinsured, your child can receive it for free through the Vaccine For Children Program.





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VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS

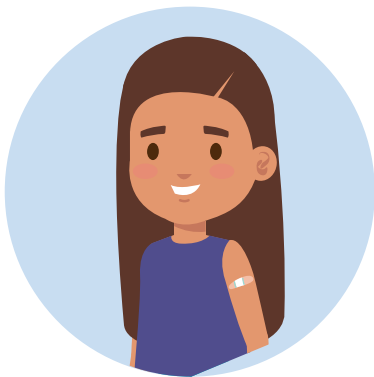
- Your child may have side effects similar to those seen with other routine childhood vaccines. They are usually **mild and will go away** within a few days. Some children have no side effects.
- Common side effects include pain, swelling, or redness in the arm or thigh where the vaccine was given, muscle or joint pain, swollen lymph nodes, fever, chills, headache, irritability or crying, feeling tired, sleepiness, and loss of appetite.

COVID-19 vaccine dosage is based on your child's age, not their size or weight. Children 12+ get the same dose of vaccine as adults.



VACCINE SAFETY

- **COVID-19 vaccines are safe for children.** Before recommending COVID-19 vaccines for children, clinical trials with thousands of children were done to test the safety of the vaccines and how well they worked. Since then, tens of millions of children in the U.S. have been vaccinated.
- COVID-19 vaccines have undergone—and will continue to undergo the most **intensive safety monitoring** in U.S. history.
- Rare cases of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the outer lining of the heart) have been reported in children after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, mostly in males 12 to 39. The risk of this happening after vaccination is very rare.
- Your child **cannot get COVID-19** from a COVID-19 vaccine.
- There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines affect development or fertility.



For more details visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccine](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccine).

[VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinatelacounty.com)



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health