



COVID-19 Vaccines

What Parents Need to Know

COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for everyone 6 months and older.

WHY SHOULD I GET MY CHILD VACCINATED FOR COVID-19?



- Though COVID-19 is usually milder in children, even healthy children **can get very sick** and need to be hospitalized. Some children even die from COVID-19.
- Children can also get **long-term** mental and physical **health problems** from COVID-19.
- There is no way to tell in advance if a child will get very sick and/or get long term complications.
- Help **protect your children** by getting them vaccinated.

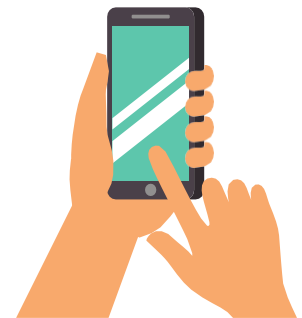
COVID-19 VACCINE BASICS

- COVID-19 vaccine **dosage is based on your child's age**, not their size or weight. Children ages 12+ get the same dose of vaccine as adults.
- Children ages 6 months + get a primary series and an **updated (bivalent) booster**. The booster is due at least 2 months after their last primary series or original (monovalent) booster dose. Exception: A booster dose is not authorized for children ages 6 months-4 years who received a Pfizer primary series. For details and information on doses for children of all ages, see ph.lacounty.gov/covidvaccineschedules.
- Children who have already had COVID-19 should still get vaccinated to **strengthen their immunity**.
- COVID-19 vaccines can be given at the same time as other routine childhood vaccines.



HOW CAN I GET MY CHILD VACCINATED?

- Vaccines are free for everyone. You don't need insurance and you will not be asked about your immigration status.
- Visit ph.lacounty.gov/howtogetvaccinated to find a site near you. Make sure they have the right vaccine for your child's age and ask about **parent/caregiver consent**. Note, 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, transportation, or in-home vaccination.





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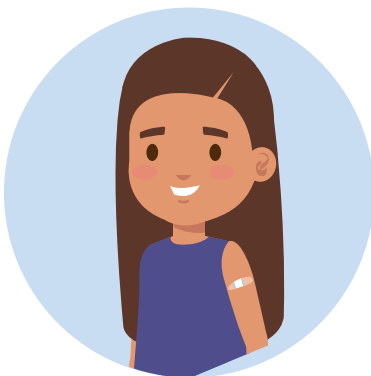
WHAT ARE THE VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS?

- 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.



ARE COVID VACCINES SAFE FOR CHILDREN?

- **Yes, 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 US 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 ages 12 and older**.
 - A longer time between the first and second dose of vaccine reduces these risks.
 - Risks to the heart from a COVID-19 vaccine are much lower than from getting COVID-19 infection.
- 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 see the [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs for Parents](#) at [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinatelacounty.com).

