# COVID-19 Vaccines for children 6 months+

## As a parent, we know you've got questions about how to best protect your child from COVID-19. Here are some answers.

Medical experts around the world agree: COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective for everyone 6 months and up, and everyone 5 years and up is eligible for a COVID-19 booster. And by protecting our youngest and most vulnerable, we're also keeping our families and communities safe.

### Safe & effective for children 6 months and older

Two COVID-19 vaccines are now available for children as young as 6 months old. Both were tested in clinical trials with thousands of children participating over several months and were shown to be safe and to generate good antibody levels.

**Pfizer**
- For 6 months through 4 years old
- Three doses
- One-tenth the dose of Pfizer's adult vaccine

**Moderna**
- For 6 months through 5 years old
- Two doses
- One-quarter the dose of Moderna's adult vaccine

**Talk to your child's health care provider about any questions you have about the COVID-19 vaccine.**

"These vaccines are safe and effective. You're much better off getting vaccinated than not getting vaccinated. And the vaccines have no way of interacting with genetic material, so they cannot change your DNA."

*– Dr. Bukhosi Dube, Oregon Health Authority Senior Health Advisor*

Have you recently tested positive for COVID-19? Call 866-917-8881 for information and help. Get your vaccine questions answered at **SafeStrongOregon.org**

**Safe + Strong**

### Should my child get the vaccine?

Yes. Children can still get very sick from COVID-19, and some children may have long-term symptoms, sometimes called long Covid. But we know that vaccines can reduce the likelihood of getting COVID-19 and lessen the harm if your child is infected.

### What about side effects?

Side effects are normal and mean your child is building up antibodies to help protect against infection. The most commonly reported side effects across all ages were soreness, redness or swelling at or near the injection site, or a fever. Applying a cold pack, drinking plenty of water and getting plenty of rest can help. Side effects should go away in a few days.

### Do the vaccines affect child development or fertility?

No. There is no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, have any effect on puberty, fertility, DNA, or would cause any problems with becoming pregnant in the future.

### If my child has already had COVID-19, is getting them vaccinated necessary?

Even if your child or family member has had COVID-19 and recovered, the vaccines offer an additional layer of protection from severe illness, especially as natural antibodies begin to wane over time. Vaccination after infection results in a strong boost.

### What about other health concerns?

If your child has asthma, diabetes or any other health condition that makes them more vulnerable, illness from COVID-19 can often be more severe, so it's even more important to protect your child from COVID-19 by getting them vaccinated.

### Can my child get the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines?

Yes, children can get vaccinated against COVID-19 at the same time they get their vaccine for other illnesses, like measles. Your child's health care provider can help you with what works best for your child.

### Do I have to pay for the COVID-19 vaccine?

No. COVID-19 vaccines are free for everyone regardless of whether or not you have health insurance.

### Do I have to be a U.S. citizen to get the vaccine?

No. Everyone can get the COVID-19 vaccine regardless of immigration status.

### Where can I find the vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccines are widely available. Call 211, visit GetVaccinated.Oregon.gov, or call your health care provider's office for an appointment. Parents can also get vaccines for their children through local public health authorities (LPHAs), federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), and through Oregon Health Authority Field Operations community events and some pharmacies.

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