

The COVID vaccine for children has been well tested through the rigorous process used for all vaccines.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) independent reviewers have evaluated the data for effectiveness and safety of the doses for children.

COVID VACCINE IS SAFE FOR KIDS

- Thousands of children participated in well-designed clinical vaccine trials.
- Over 27 million children in the United States have already gotten a COVID vaccine. Real-world experience shows that the vaccine is safe.
- All childhood vaccines are closely tracked in established monitoring programs to pick up any new side effects or concerns. Vaccines are monitored “post-licensure” more closely than any other medical or consumer product in the US.
 - This vaccine monitoring system has been strengthened even more since the start of the pandemic, providing millions more data points from deidentified but unbiased medical records. These are helping us to rapidly pick up rare side effects and effectiveness concerns.
- What side effects do most children get from COVID vaccine? The same side effects as adults:
 - Pain, redness, or local swelling
 - Tiredness
 - Fever or chills
 - Headache
 - Muscle Pain
- These side effects usually last for 1-3 days. They are a sign the vaccine is teaching your child’s body to protect itself against SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- In very rare instances, teen boys have developed short-term myocarditis or pericarditis after COVID vaccination.
 - These are types of heart inflammation that can cause symptoms like chest pain, rapid heartbeat & shortness of breath.
 - Heart inflammation is seen much more frequently after COVID infection than after COVID vaccine.
 - Heart inflammation from COVID infection tends to be much worse and longer lasting than vaccine-associated inflammation. That’s why the American Heart Association recommends everyone get vaccinated against COVID-19.

COVID VACCINE WORKS IN KIDS

- The mRNA vaccine technology has been known for about 20 years. It’s not new.
- mRNA is in our own cells and are the instructions for the cell to make needed proteins. The cells are like 3D printers for proteins. Once the cells make the protein, the mRNA breaks down and goes away.
- Immunobridging in clinical trials showed the COVID vaccine doses for children offer equal antibody response to the adult doses.
- Vaccinated youths have been much less likely to be hospitalized or die in prior surges, especially in the omicron surges.

Is it worth administering the COVID vaccine to young children if many only develop moderate respiratory symptoms?

- ✓ Measles and diphtheria aren’t seen frequently in the US but the burden of illness for those who become ill is large and we regularly recommend our most powerful agent: vaccination. This is the same as COVID. We don’t know WHO will get severe COVID but we have a tool that keeps kids from dying so we should use it.
- ✓ **“During the past two years, about 45,000 children less than 5 years of age have been hospitalized with COVID-19, about 10,000 have been admitted to the intensive care unit, and about 450 have died from the disease.”**
- ✓ “As of June 2022, almost 1,500 children 17 years of age or younger have died from COVID-19. While this is small number compared with the more than 1 million deaths in the U.S., for those approximately 1,500 families, their world will never be the same.” *Childrens Hospital of Philadelphia*
- ✓ Children under 5 are at greater risk of COVID hospitalization: VACCINATE them!

Pediatricians, family physicians, and other child health clinicians are trusted by families. We counsel our patients on the importance of routine vaccines every day and COVID vaccine **isn’t** special.

Your strong recommendation for childhood COVID vaccination really does matter.



What Your Child's PCP Wants You To Know About COVID Vaccination For Kids

130,000

Children have been hospitalized with COVID

1500

Children have died from COVID

● How will COVID affect my child?

There's no way to know how COVID will affect any given child. About half of children who have no previous health problems are hospitalized. However, we do know that children with some health issues have a greater chance of getting very sick from COVID, including asthma, diabetes, obesity, and sickle cell disease.

● MULTISYSTEM INFLAMMATORY DISEASE (MIS-C)

COVID can cause MIS-C, which is a rare but serious illness that involves painful swelling in parts of the body, including heart, lungs, and brain. More than 8500 kids with COVID have developed MIS-C and 69 of them have died.

● LONG COVID

1 in 4 Children who get COVID can have new or lingering symptoms that last for weeks or months after infection. Symptoms include headaches, joint/muscle pain, tiredness, trouble concentrating, or sleep problems. *Vaccinated children are less likely to become infected with COVID and develop Long COVID.*

Vaccination is the best way to protect our children from complications of COVID.

Massachusetts Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MASSACHUSETTS

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

