

FAQs on COVID-19 Vaccines for Children

Which vaccine is the best?

Both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines offer strong protection against COVID-19. Children ages 5 to 17 can only get Pfizer at this time.

What side effects do people have from the vaccine?

Some people have no side effects. Some people have fever, chills, or body aches for a couple of days after getting the shot. Many people have a sore arm or feel tired. These are normal signs that your body is learning how to recognize and fight off COVID-19.

Many employers are giving workers paid time off to get the shot and recover from side effects. You can also plan ahead and get the shot before a day off. For children who are in school, it can be helpful to get the shot on Friday or Saturday so they feel better by Monday.

What are the long term effects of the vaccine?

More than 250 million people (and more than 26 million children) in the U.S. have safely gotten the COVID-19 vaccine. So far, very few dangerous side effects are reported. The chances of children getting very sick with COVID-19 are far greater than any side effects of getting the vaccine. On the other hand, having COVID-19 can have long-term effects like dizziness, trouble breathing, and brain fog. Vaccines help protect you from getting COVID-19. They also help protect you from long-term effects even if you get infected. Scientists continually look for long term effects and tell the public if something is found.

How did the vaccine get created so fast?

Scientists went through every step that other vaccines go through to make sure the Covid-19 vaccines work and are safe. They have been working on these kinds of vaccines for many years for other diseases before the pandemic began. That means scientists were ready to go as soon as the virus first appeared. A lot of money went into making sure the vaccine trials could happen quickly. The FDA made it their priority to review the data as soon as it was available. The government also bought vaccine doses ahead of time so they were ready to go as soon as the FDA approved them.

