

Wade

COVID-19 Vaccines Are Available for Children Ages 5 to 17! Get Your Child Vaccinated Today!

To find a vaccination site, go to nyc.gov/vaccinefinder or call 877-VAX-4-NYC (877-829-4692). If you have any questions, talk to your child's health care provider or call 212-COVID-19 (212-268-4319).

- Vaccines are safe, effective and free! You **do not** need to have health insurance or share your immigration status to get vaccinated.
- Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from COVID-19. With more contagious variants of the virus, more young people are getting COVID-19 and being hospitalized.
- Parents or guardians must give permission to get vaccinated and children ages 5 to 15 must have an adult with them.
- Children ages 5 to 17 can get the Pfizer vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine requires two doses, three weeks apart. People are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose.

1. Why should children ages 5 to 17 years old get vaccinated?

People of all ages can get COVID-19. While COVID-19 is more dangerous for adults, children have gotten very sick and died from COVID-19. With more contagious variants of the virus, more young people are getting COVID-19 and being hospitalized. Some people also have long-lasting health problems after having COVID-19, such as difficulty breathing, muscle and joint pain, headaches and tiredness.

Getting children vaccinated also helps protect others, such as grandparents and relatives who have a medical condition that increases their risk for severe COVID-19. It even helps people in your community, since being vaccinated helps stop the spread of the virus.

2. Are children ages 5 to 17 required to get vaccinated?

While vaccination is currently not required for school attendance, vaccination allows children to be in the classroom, participate in after-school activities and sports, and gather with friends more safely. Also, vaccination is required in other settings. Many employers require vaccination, and people age 5 and older must show proof of vaccination for indoor dining, going to the gym, and other activities in NYC.

**NYC VACCINE FOR ALL:
SAFE, FREE, EASY**

NYC



3. How do we know the Pfizer vaccine is safe and works for children?

The Pfizer vaccine was studied in thousands of children ages 5 to 17 and shown to be very safe and effective. The process was monitored closely by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, other organizations, and independent experts. The Pfizer vaccine has safely been given to millions of children in the U.S.

4. What are the side effects? Will it hurt?

Children ages 5 to 17 experience similar side effects as adults. They might feel a bit of pain when getting vaccinated, just like any other shot. Afterwards, they may have soreness in their arm where they got the shot, and they may feel tired or achy, have a headache or get a fever. These are signs that the body is building protection. Side effects usually last for one to two days.

There is a very low risk of inflammation of the heart (myocarditis) and surrounding tissue (pericarditis) after getting the Pfizer vaccine. Most cases improve with treatment and rest. Serious side effects are very rare, and the risks from COVID-19 are far greater.

5. Can getting vaccinated affect fertility?

Claims linking COVID-19 vaccines to fertility problems are unfounded and have no scientific evidence supporting them. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other experts say it is safe for people who may want to have a child in the future to get vaccinated.

6. My family does not have a doctor. Who do I call if I have questions?

For more information about the vaccines, visit nyc.gov/covidvaccine and cdc.gov/covidvaccine. You can call **311** or 212-COVID-19 (212-268-4319) if you have questions or for help finding a NYC Health + Hospitals doctor. Care is provided regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

7. Do children need permission to get vaccinated? Do they need insurance, an ID or other documents?

Yes. A parent or guardian must give consent. Consent can be given in-person or by phone at the time of the appointment. Some vaccination sites also accept written consent, including all City-run sites. People ages 5 to 15 must be accompanied to the vaccination site by a parent or guardian or another adult caregiver chosen by the parent or guardian.

Bring proof of age, such as an ID or birth certificate if you have one. If not, a parent or guardian can attest to their child's age. You do not need to share your immigration status or provide a social security number to be vaccinated. Insurance is not required. If you have insurance, it may be billed, but you will not need to pay a copay or other fee.

8. What can people do once they are vaccinated?

All activities are safer once someone is fully vaccinated! People who are fully vaccinated can do many activities without wearing a mask or physical distancing. Masks are still required in some places, like schools, public transportation, stores and other public spaces if the owner or operator requires. We recommend that everyone wear a mask in all public indoor settings, even when it is not required, and in any setting when you do not know the vaccination status of those around you.