

# Should My Child Get the Updated COVID-19 Vaccine?



## *Why should my child get vaccinated against COVID-19?*

COVID-19 can make children and teens very sick, sometimes requiring treatment in a hospital. Getting eligible children and teens vaccinated against COVID-19 can help keep them from getting really sick if they do get infected by the COVID-19 virus, including protecting them from short- and long-term complications and hospitalization. Vaccinating children can also help keep them in school or daycare and allow them to safely participate in sports, playdates, and other group activities.

As the new school year is underway and parts of the country begin to see increasing cases of respiratory diseases, including COVID-19, take care of yourself and your children by staying up to date on recommended vaccinations, washing your hands, and covering your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.

The benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines for their age group.

## *If my child already had COVID-19, is vaccination still needed?*

Children should get vaccinated against COVID-19 even if they've already had COVID-19 disease. [Getting a COVID-19 vaccine](#) after recovering from COVID-19 infection provides added protection against getting COVID-19 again. Defer vaccination for children with known current SARS-CoV-2 infection until they have recovered from acute illness (if the child has symptoms) and until [criteria](#) have been met for them to discontinue isolation. You may consider delaying vaccination by 3 months from when your child's symptoms started or, if there weren't any symptoms when your child received a positive test.

People who already had COVID-19 and do not get vaccinated after their recovery are [more likely to get COVID-19 again](#) compared with people who get vaccinated after their recovery.



## Can my child receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccinations?

There is no recommended waiting period between getting a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines. Your child can [get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines](#), including a flu vaccine, at the same visit. Experience with other vaccines has shown that the way our bodies develop protection—known as an immune response—and possible [side effects](#) after getting vaccinated are generally the same when given alone or with other vaccines.

## Are my children up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations?

Your children are up to date when they have received all COVID-19 vaccine dose(s) recommended for them by the CDC. People are best protected when they [“stay up to date” with COVID-19 vaccinations](#):

- Everyone 5 years and older should get **1 updated Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine**.
- Recommendations for children ages 6 months to 4 years vary by age.

“Fully vaccinated” is **not** the same as having the best protection that staying up to date provides. Children were “fully vaccinated” when they had completed only a primary series based on their age, health status, and vaccine type. Thus, children can be “fully vaccinated” and not have completed all vaccine doses recommended for them, which is called **“up to date.”** Currently, only Novavax COVID-19 vaccine has a recommendation for a primary series.

## Are the COVID-19 vaccines working?

[COVID-19 vaccines are working well](#)

to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death. However, public health experts are seeing reduced protection over time against mild and moderate disease, especially among certain populations, which is why vaccination recommendations are reviewed and updated.



## How long does COVID-19 vaccine protection last?

Scientists are monitoring how long COVID-19 vaccine protection lasts. [Recent data](#) show that 1 dose of the updated COVID-19 vaccine better protects against more serious illness, hospitalization, and death than previous COVID-19 vaccines. People who have received the updated COVID-19 vaccine (approved/recommended in September 2023) are better protected against severe illness from COVID-19 than those who have not gotten it.

If you have any questions regarding COVID-19 vaccinations and your child, talk with a pharmacist or other healthcare provider. Staying up to date is one of the best protections you can provide your child.