

COVID-19 Vaccination for Babies & Younger Children

Questions and Answers for Parents and Guardians



May 12, 2023

COVID-19 vaccine is the best way to protect your child from hospitalization, long-term symptoms, and even possible death.

- COVID-19 in babies and children is usually not severe. But on occasion, COVID-19 can cause serious infections that require hospitalization or lead to "long COVID".
- It's like a car seat: vaccine protects little ones against a seriously dangerous possibility, even if it's unlikely to happen.

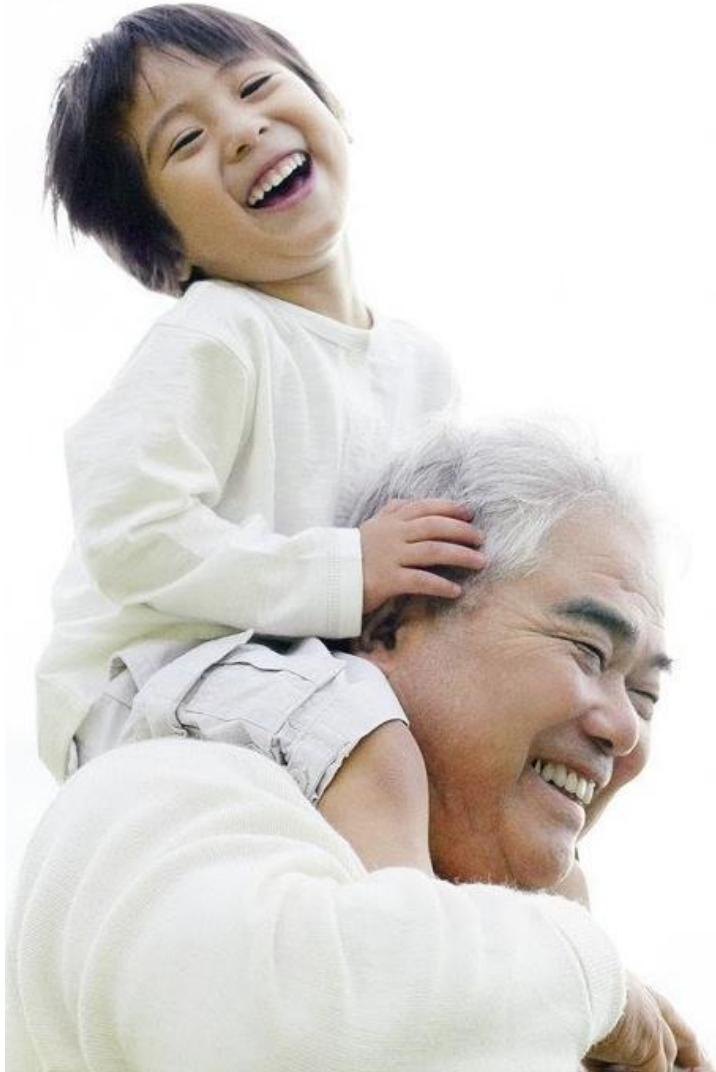


Vaccination helps kids be kids.

When kids are **up-to-date on vaccines**, they can safely do more of the activities they enjoy, like attending preschool and spending time indoors with friends and family.



COVID-19 vaccine makes it safer for kids to be around others.



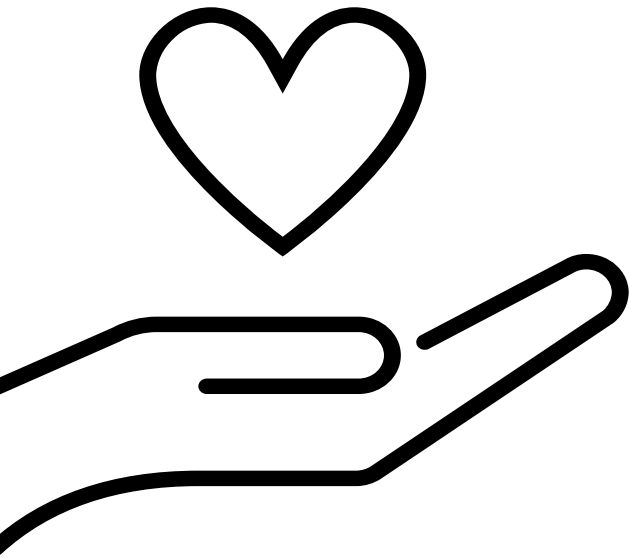
When your child is vaccinated, it also protects **family members and friends**, especially those who may be at high risk.

Is the child vaccine **safe and effective**?

Yes. The FDA determined that the vaccine had no serious safety concerns identified in clinical studies.

It's possible that a vaccinated child could still get COVID-19, but the illness will be milder.

Vaccine protects against what matters most: it prevents hospitalization, severe health problems, and death.



What type of COVID-19 vaccine can babies and young children get?



Children 6 months and older can get Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Will my baby or young child need more than 1 dose?

Children aged 6 months–5 years may need multiple doses of COVID-19 vaccine to be up to date, including **at least 1 dose of updated bivalent Pfizer or Moderna vaccine**. It depends on the number of doses they've previously received and their age.

Questions? Ask a healthcare provider.



What ingredients are in the vaccines for babies and young children?

Active ingredient: mRNA (a molecule that teaches your cells how to recognize the coronavirus so they can fight against it quickly)

Other ingredients in Pfizer: amino alcohol, lipids (fats), sodium chloride (salt), and sucrose (sugar).

Other ingredients in Moderna: lipids (fats), sodium acetate and sodium acetate trihydrate (salts), acid stabilizers, and sucrose (sugar).

Is the vaccine for kids **free**?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccine is **always free**.

COVID-19 vaccines are available at **no cost** to children in WA, regardless of insurance or immigration status.



What **side effects** are common for babies and young children?

Side effects usually last a day or two. Common side effects include:

- Soreness where they get their shot
- Irritability and crying
- Sleepiness and fatigue
- Loss of appetite

Less common: nausea/vomiting, fever, chills, swollen glands.

These are normal signs that their body is building protection.



Is there a link between **myocarditis** and the vaccine for children?



- In adolescent males, mRNA vaccines have been linked to a **rare condition** called myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart.
- This condition has **not** been linked to COVID-19 vaccination in children under age 11.

Cont'd: Is there a link between **myocarditis** and the vaccine for children?

- There were **no reported cases** in the study of children under age 5 for either Moderna or Pfizer.
- A large national study of children ages 5 to 11 found that they are much more likely to **get myocarditis from getting COVID-19** than from vaccination.



Where can babies and young children get vaccinated?



Appointments are available at:

- Pediatrician's Offices
- Clinics
- Vaccination Sites

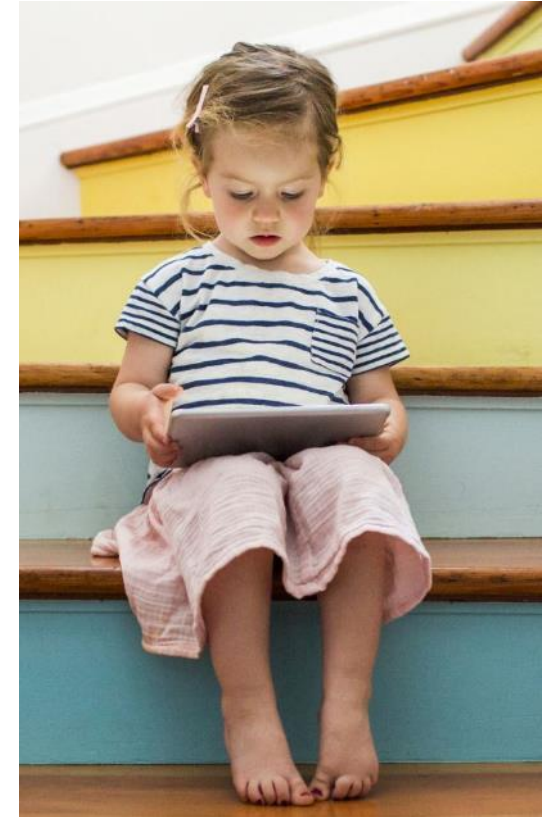
Some pharmacies will be able to vaccinate young children.

To find a site near you or schedule an appointment:

- kingcounty.gov/vaccine
- Call the Washington State COVID-19 Information line at **1-800-525-0127** (say your preferred language when connected).

What should I do to **prepare** for my child's vaccination visit?

- Dress your child in **shorts or loose-fitting clothes** that are easy to roll up.
- **Be honest with your child:** The shot will hurt for a moment or feel like a pinch.
- **Bring a book or small toy** for the waiting period.



It's hard for me to get to a vaccination site. What **help** is there?

Accessibility: For disability accommodations, email: **PublicHealthAccommodations@kingcounty.gov**.

Language assistance: Call the Washington State COVID-19 Information line at **1-800-525-0127** (say your preferred language when connected).

Transportation: call the Transportation Resources Line: 425-943-6760, 8:30am to 4:00pm, or visit, www.FindARide.org.



kingcounty.gov/vaccine