

# COVID-19 vaccination for 5- to 11-year-olds

*Questions & answers for  
parents and guardians*

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**Public Health**  
Seattle & King County



# **Why** should my child get the vaccine?

Children can get COVID-19 and spread it to others if they get infected, even if they do not have symptoms.

Most cases of COVID-19 in children are not severe, but on occasion, COVID-19 can cause **serious infections** that require hospitalization. Children can also have **long-term effects** from the virus, known as long-COVID.

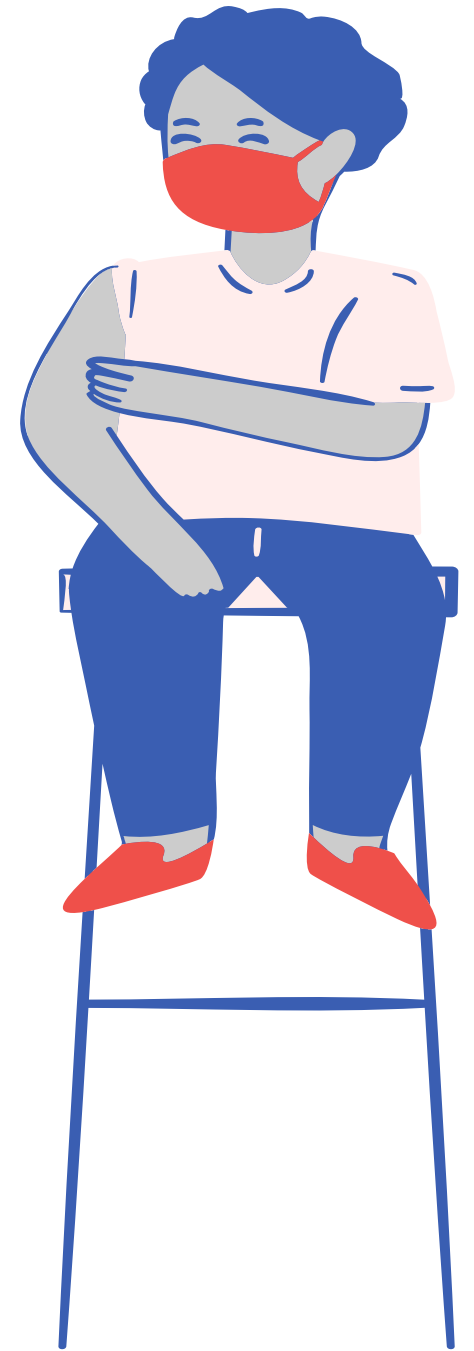
As a community, the more people that are vaccinated, the safer we will all be.

# Is the child vaccine **safe & effective?**

Yes. The FDA determined that vaccine had **no serious safety concerns** identified in clinical studies and was over **90% effective** at preventing illness from coronavirus in kids.

# What **type** of vaccine is available for children?

Currently, **only the Pfizer vaccine** is authorized for emergency use in children ages 5 to 11.



# Is the **kids' vaccine** the same as the vaccine for 12 and over?

No. The Pfizer vaccine is **specially formulated for children.**

The vaccine for children is made the same way, but it is a smaller dose:

- **10 micrograms** for kids
- **30 micrograms** for teens/adults

Everyone gets two shots, three weeks apart.



# What **ingredients** are in the kids' vaccine?

The active ingredient, **mRNA**, is the same for the Pfizer vaccine for 12+ and the one for 5-to-11 year olds.

The Pfizer vaccine for 5-to-11 year-olds contains an amino alcohol that helps the vaccine **last longer at refrigerated temperatures**. The vaccine for 12 and older uses different stabilizers (potassium chloride, potassium phosphate, and sodium phosphate).

Both versions of the Pfizer vaccine also contain the same lipids (fats), sodium chloride (salt), 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 everyone living in the United States, regardless of insurance or immigration status.

# Should I expect that my child will have **side effects**?

Your child may feel similar to how they feel after getting other childhood vaccines. These are normal signs that their body is building protection.

Side effects may include:

- **Sore arm**
- **Body aches**
- **Fever**

Possible side effects are temporary and usually go away in 1-2 days.





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

In very rare cases, people have developed inflammation of the heart muscle following vaccination with mRNA vaccines. The inflammation is known as myocarditis and it goes away quickly with treatment.

In the clinical trial in children, there were **no cases of myocarditis** in the three-month follow-up period after vaccination.

The clinical trial is ongoing and the CDC and FDA have systems in place to continue to monitor and detect possible reactions or other uncommon side effects.

# **Where** can I get the **vaccine for kids 5 to 11?**

**The supply of vaccine for kids will be limited at first.** When vaccine is available, it will be at many of the same places where COVID-19 adult vaccines are available, plus special school clinics.

To find a site near you, use WA State's Vaccine Locator: **<https://vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov>**

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

- **Have your child wear short sleeves** or loose-fitting sleeves that are easy to roll up.



- **Be honest with your child:** Your child needs to know that they will be getting a shot. The shot will hurt for a moment or feel like a pinch.



- **Bring a book or small toy** for your child to use during the appointment and short waiting period after vaccination.



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

- **Accessibility:** If you need accommodation, email [publichealthaccommodations@kingcounty.gov](mailto:publichealthaccommodations@kingcounty.gov) or call 206-477-3977.
- **Language assistance:** If you need language interpretation, call the King County COVID-19 Call Center: 206-477-3977, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Please say your preferred language when connected.
- **Free transportation:** If you need a ride to you or your child's vaccination appointment, visit [bit.ly/vaxride](https://bit.ly/vaxride) or call 425-943-6706 (Mon-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Dial 5 for interpretation).

[kingcounty.gov/vaccine](https://kingcounty.gov/vaccine)

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