COVID-19 Vaccine for Infants & Children
6 Months - 5 years
A toolkit for

- community and faith organizations
- childcare providers
- schools
- and other youth service providers
What’s in the toolkit:

Links to videos, flyers, social media graphics, and other resources about vaccination for children

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions and other messaging to help you answer questions and share information

Please share the resources from this toolkit with the families in your networks. We offer tips about how to use these materials in each section of the toolkit.

Thank you for all that you do to support families in King County!

kingcounty.gov/vaccine/youth
How to use this toolkit

You can copy text from this toolkit and paste it into your own documents, newsletters, presentations, and messages.

You can print flyers directly from this toolkit. Just print whatever single page you need.

You can right click on any of the images and “save as” to use any photo from this toolkit for your materials.

Headers and footers can also be saved.

kingcounty.gov/vaccine/youth
Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines are now authorized for emergency use for children aged 6 months to 5 years. COVID-19 vaccine is free and no insurance required. Everyone ages 6 months and older can get a Moderna or Pfizer vaccine. CDC recommends the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines over J&J for both initial and booster vaccinations. Learn more about vaccination for youth at [kingcounty.gov/vaccine/youth](https://kingcounty.gov/vaccine/youth)

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Why should babies and young children get the COVID-19 vaccine?

- Vaccination prevents severe illness, long-term symptoms and hospitalization from COVID.
- When kids are up-to-date on vaccines, they can safely do more of the activities they enjoy, like going to preschool and spending time indoors with friends and family.
- When young children are around a lot of other people, especially if they are in daycare or preschool, they have more potential exposure to COVID. That makes vaccine an especially valuable layer of protection for them.

#### Can babies and young children have serious health problems from COVID-19?

- Yes, they can have serious health problems, even if it’s much less common than for adults.
- Children 6 months to 4 years old have the highest rates of emergency department visits and hospitalizations for COVID-19 of all children. More than half of children hospitalized for COVID-19 have no underlying medical condition.
- And even though deaths from COVID in young children are relatively uncommon compared to adults, it is a leading cause of death in 6-month to 4-year-old children.
- Children can also have long lasting symptoms, known as long COVID.

#### How does COVID-19 vaccination protect babies, young children and their families?

- When your child is vaccinated, it also protects family members and friends, especially those who may be at high risk.
- Children can’t spread COVID-19 as easily if they are vaccinated.
- Vaccine makes it safer for them to be around others.
Frequently Asked Questions

Misinformation circulating online and by word of mouth can make it hard for parents, caregivers, and others to get the facts and make informed decisions about the COVID-19 vaccine for kids.

We created this FAQ to help answer some frequently asked questions about the vaccine.

If young children don’t get as sick from COVID-19, why should they get the vaccine?

• COVID-19 in babies and children is usually not severe, but on occasion, it can cause serious infections, and on rare occasions, death. The COVID-19 vaccine is the best way to protect your child from the possibility of severe illness from COVID, long-term symptoms, hospitalization, and death.

• Children can also have long term health problems from the virus, known as long COVID.

• It’s like a car seat: vaccine protects little ones against a seriously dangerous possibility, even if it’s unlikely to happen.

• It’s possible that a baby or young child could get COVID, even after vaccination, especially with more contagious variants like Omicron. But if they do, their infection will be milder and less contagious. And they will be well protected against serious illness, hospitalization, and death.
How was the COVID-19 vaccine tested with babies and young children?

- The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was studied in a clinical trial involving 2,750 children between ages 6 months to 4 years. The study looked at the effectiveness and safety of the vaccine using two doses of vaccine that have one-tenth the amount of active ingredient (mRNA) as the adult vaccine. When they found that the 2 doses weren’t enough to provide the same level of protection from the Omicron variant as adults get from the adult version of the vaccine, they studied the effectiveness using 3 doses. They found that three doses of Pfizer vaccine babies and young children provided strong protection from severe illness.

- The Moderna vaccine was studied in a clinical trial in which over 5,000 children aged 6 months to 5 years received the vaccine. They found 2 doses of the Moderna vaccine for this age group was as protective as the adult Moderna vaccine.

- Both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for babies and young children did not have any serious side effects in the clinical trials.

What side effects are common for babies and young children?

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 tend to be mild and usually last a day or two. The most common side effects among babies and toddlers after getting the COVID-19 vaccine are:

- irritability and crying
- sleepiness and fatigue
- loss of appetite, and
- redness and soreness where they got the shot.
- Less common side effects include nausea or vomiting, fever, swelling of the gland under the armpit, or chills.

Does the COVID-19 vaccine stay in the child’s body forever or change their body or development in any way?

No. After mRNA does its job, it leaves the body through natural processes, along with the other ingredients in the vaccine such as salts, fats, and sugars.
Can the vaccine harm my child’s future ability to have children?

Misinformation has circulated about COVID-19 vaccine and fertility. There is no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, can cause female or male fertility problems. Millions of women have become pregnant after getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

Is there a link between heart problems and the vaccine for children?

Parents may be concerned about the possibility of myocarditis after vaccination. In adolescent males, mRNA vaccines have been linked to an extremely rare condition called myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart. But this condition has not been linked to COVID vaccination in children under 11. 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 5-11 found that they are much more likely to get myocarditis from getting COVID-19 than from vaccination.

About The Vaccines:

Why are the number of doses different for Moderna and Pfizer?

- The Pfizer vaccine for children 6 months to 4 years is a much smaller dose than their vaccine for older age groups, about a tenth of what adults get. They found that young children need an additional dose to get about the same level of protection as the adults get from the adult vaccine.
- The Moderna vaccine for ages 6 months to 5 years has more active ingredient than the Pfizer, about a fourth of the amount as in the adult vaccine. They found that two child-sized doses could produce a similar level of protection to what adults get from the vaccine.

What are the ingredients in the COVID-19 vaccines?

- The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines both contain messenger RNA (mRNA), a molecule made by the body that teaches cells how to fight against the virus that causes COVID-19. The vaccines include ingredients commonly found in many foods such as fats, sugars, salts, and acid stabilizers (a preservative).
- The vaccine is like the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for adults but is a much smaller dose to be safe for young children’s bodies.

Are the COVID-19 vaccines Halal?

The vaccines available in the US are halal. Learn more:

NMTF-NBMCCStatement.pdf (cair.com)
Video Resources

How to use these videos:

- Play them in webinars or presentations
- Copy and paste the links into your social media posts, emails, or newsletters
- Share directly from YouTube by clicking on “Share” in the YouTube app

Pediatrician Dr. Ben Danielson, MD, answers parents’ questions about the vaccine for children 6 months and older.

View: bit.ly/kids-covid-vaxvids

Big Bird gets the COVID-19 vaccine because it is the best way to protect Big Bird, his friends and family.

View: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrVLE1X5J4A

This animation from the American Academy of Pediatrics explains how mRNA vaccines for adults and children were developed for many years, and why they are safe.

View: https://youtu.be/cqrM1bgQ7AE

kingcounty.gov/vaccine/youth
Pediatrician Dr. Anita Chandra explains that a child can get the COVID-19 vaccine along with other childhood immunizations. It is safe and common to get multiple childhood vaccines at the same time, and children tend to do well. From healthychildren.org.

View: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXNRr6Qt3DU

Elmo’s dad had many questions about Elmo getting the COVID-19 vaccine, so he spoke with their pediatrician to make the right choice.

View: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwimt9n2JEk

Children 6 months and older are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccines. The science behind it has been decades in the making. From Washington State Department of Health.

View: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDzgangKhsI
I thought you might have questions about the COVID-19 vaccines for kids. These videos with Dr. Ben Danielson were really helpful to me: bit.ly/kidsvaxquestions

I’m trying to help families find vax for their kids now that children and babies as young as 6 months can get the vaccine. You can find out where and how to protect your children against COVID here: kingcounty.gov/vaccine

Did you know you can schedule an in-home COVID-19 vaccine for babies and children who qualify? For more information or to schedule an in-home appointment call 206-477-3977 from 8am-7pm.

Did you know that getting the COVID-19 vaccine for children is always free, no insurance is needed & you can get it no matter what your immigration status? Learn more about it here: kingcounty.gov/vaccine

I know you’re super busy so I thought you should know that you don’t always need an appointment to get your kids a COVID-19 vaccine or booster. Check here before you go for locations & hours that work for you: kingcounty.gov/vaccine

Hi [name], let me know if for any reason you need help scheduling an COVID-19 vaccine or booster appointment for your children or anyone in your family, I’m happy to help. Call me at [phone] I speak [language/s]. You can also call the COVID-19 Call Center at 206-477-3977 and say your preferred language.
Social Media

Share These Graphics

We’ve created graphics that help answer common questions that families and staff may have about COVID vaccine.

• You can download social media graphics from kingcounty.gov/vaxgraphics and share them on your Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter accounts. On this webpage, you’ll find graphics sized for the different social media platforms.

• You can also follow our social media accounts and repost our content with your followers.

• Adapt the text from the MESSAGES page or Q&A page in the toolkit to post to your social media. Or use one of the suggested posts below.

Suggested Posts:

COVID-19 Vaccines have been approved for children 6 months and older. Find a COVID vaccine for infants and young children near you, go to: kingcounty.gov/vaccine.

Getting your child vaccinated will protect family members and friends, especially those who may be at high risk. kingcounty.gov/vaccine/youth

Vaccination helps kids be kids. When kids are vaccinated, they can safely do more of the activities they enjoy, like birthday parties, daycare and spending time indoors with friends and family. kingcounty.gov/vaccine/youth
Getting Vaccinated

COVID-19 vaccine is always free, no insurance required.

Vaccination is available regardless of citizenship or immigration status. Children 6 months and older can get the Pfizer or Moderna Vaccine.

Option 1:
King County Vaccination Sites: Drop-ins are welcome and same day appointments are available at many vaccination clinics in locations throughout King County. All sites are ADA accessible and have language and ADA interpretation available.

For more information: kingcounty.gov/vaccine or call the King County COVID Call Center: 206-477-3977 (for interpretation, say your language when connected).

Option 2:
Call your doctor’s office or health care provider to see if they have available vaccination appointments.

Option 3:
Visit Washington State’s Vaccine Locator for pharmacies and other vaccination sites: vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov.

Free child care is available for vaccination appointments and recuperation from KinderCare (phone:1-866-337-3105).

the Learning Care Group
(phone:1-833-459-3557),

and the YMCA (contact your local YMCA to learn more).

If you have a disability and need accommodation, call: 206-477-3977 or email: publichealthaccommodations@kingcounty.gov
Vaccination Day

This information will help parents know what to bring and what they can expect.

- Bring a document to confirm child’s age: state, tribe, or federal-issued identification, birth certificate, school ID or school or medical paperwork with name and date of birth can be used.
- Children should wear short or loose-fitting clothing that is easy to roll up and vaccinate their upper arm or leg.

The type of vaccines administered

**Pfizer:** The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is given to children:
- ages **6 months to 4 years.**
- **The vaccine is 3 doses** (the first 2 doses are given 3-8 weeks apart, an additional dose is given 2 months after the second dose).

**Moderna:** The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is given to children:
- ages **6 months to 5 years.**
- **The vaccine is 2 doses** that are given 4-8 weeks apart. The CDC recommends that children with moderate or severe immune compromised health conditions receive a third dose.

After Vaccination

After vaccination, children may feel sore where the vaccine was given, feel achy, or have a fever, just like side effects from other child vaccines. Side effects are temporary and usually go away in 1-2 days.

Knowing what to expect can help make COVID-19 vaccination appointments easier for parents and children.

Share this information with parents and guardians about what they can expect.
Some places may ask for proof of vaccination. The following types of proof are accepted in Washington. Note that locations may only accept a specific type from the list below:

- CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card: original, copy, or photograph of the card on a mobile device
- Certificate of COVID-19 vaccination from MyIRmobile.com
- Printout of an electronic medical record from your medical provider
- Digital QR code from WAverify.org (More information: bit.ly/wavaxverify)

Please Note: The initial vaccination series (also known as their primary series) for children under 5 is complete after the 3rd dose of Pfizer or 2nd dose of Moderna.

Tips for handling your CDC Vaccination Record Card:

- DON’T throw it away or lose it.
- DON’T show or post it on social media.
- DON’T laminate your original card.
- DO keep the card stored in a safe place.
- DO take a photo of the front and back to have a digital and backup copy handy.
- DO make a photocopy of the card if you want to carry it with you.

Video: How to Favorite your Vaccination Card on your phone for easy access
https://youtu.be/iYog4PRMdXs

Questions? Call: 833-VAX-HELP
Digital COVID-19 Vaccination Records

Sign up is quick and easy! To access Washington States digital COVID-19 Verification Record System, go to: waverify.doh.wa.gov

The system provides a digital copy of state vaccine records. To share proof of a child’s vaccination, you can use the electronic or a printed version of the record you’ll get from the system.

People within a family may have multiple verification records associated with a mobile number or email address, enter each digital verification record request separately.

To sign up you will need to enter:

First name

Last name

Date of birth

The mobile number* or email associated with the vaccine record. *If you do not get a match using your mobile phone number, try again using your email address.

You will create a 4-digit pin number. The system will send a link to enter the PIN number and access the digital vaccine record.
CHILDREN
6 MONTHS AND OLDER
COVID-19 vaccines are FREE.

Help protect your littlest ones. Find a COVID vaccination appointment today.

Or, go to:
kingcounty.gov/vaccine

Have more questions? Go to, kingcounty.gov/vaccine/youth.
Have medical questions about COVID-19?

Contact the King County COVID-19 call center at 206-477-3977, 8a.m. to 5p.m. If you need language interpretation or online help, contact the call center and say your preferred language when connected.

If you have a disability and need accommodation, contact the call center or email:

publichealthaccommodations@kingcounty.gov

Invite a speaker from Public Health

We offer educational presentations on vaccine and other COVID-19 topics, including in multiple languages:

kingcounty.gov/covid/presentations

Take a training to help talk to families about vaccine

This free, 2-hour training course prepares parents, PTAs, community members, and school staff to be VaccineAmbassadors and promote vaccine acceptance in their communities.

www.coursera.org/learn/covid-vaccine-ambassador

More resources from Public Health

Our Community Materials page has additional flyers, slides, videos, and more. Check kingcounty.gov/covid/vaxresources regularly for new materials and additional translations!

Information about testing (including videos on how to do a self-test), caring for someone with COVID-19, and other information: kingcounty.gov/covid