

GET THE FACTS:

COVID-19 VACCINES FOR CHILDREN

UI Health Care providers recommend your child receive a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they become eligible.

What is the COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccines protect you from the virus that causes COVID-19 which can cause serious illness or death. Getting vaccinated will help keep you, your family, and your community healthy and safe. The authorized vaccines are very effective at preventing severe disease and hospitalization from COVID-19.

Can children get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have authorized several COVID-19 vaccines for use in children under the age of 18.

Is it safe to vaccinate my child against COVID-19?

Yes. Our pediatricians and the Academy of Pediatrics recommend that children be vaccinated against COVID-19 when they are eligible to help protect themselves from severe illness and as an important step in ending the pandemic.

Children can get COVID-19 just like adults. While oftentimes children with COVID-19 may not end up getting as sick as adults with COVID-19 might, they are still at risk for severe illness and can spread the virus to other children, as well as adults who may experience severe illness. Vaccinating children is safe and effective for your child and your family and is an important step to returning to normal things like in-person learning, sports, and activities.

What side effects from the vaccine can I expect for my child?

Children receiving the vaccine may experience the same side effects as an adult would. Common side effects include a sore arm, fatigue, headache, fever, or chills lasting around 48 hours after vaccination. These side effects are normal and show that the body is mounting a response to the vaccine, which helps your child's body to protect itself against the COVID-19 virus. Some patients may not experience these side effects, but the vaccine is working.

Will the vaccine impact my child's development?

No. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine get vaccinated as soon as they are able. Clinical trials show that this vaccine is safe and effective for children.

Can any of the vaccines give my child COVID-19?

No. The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines. These vaccines give your child's cells instructions for how to make a harmless protein that is unique to the virus, which then teaches their body how to fight the virus that causes COVID-19 if they are exposed in the future. COVID-19 vaccines do not contain the virus, so they can't give your child COVID-19.

Does an mRNA vaccine change my child's DNA or genetic code?

No. The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines. The messenger RNA contained in the COVID-19 vaccine cannot integrate into your child's DNA or their human genes and is broken down very quickly once it's exposed in the body. The COVID-19 vaccines cannot change your child's DNA. Learn more about mRNA vaccines at:

→ uihc.org/mrna-vaccines

If you have questions or concerns about vaccinating your child, please talk with your pediatrician or primary care provider.

For more information, visit:

→ uihc.org/covid-vaccine