

# COVID-19 Vaccination for Babies & Younger Children

## Questions and Answers for Parents and Guardians



June 22, 2022

# 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.
- Children 6 months to 4 years have the highest rates of Emergency Room visits and hospitalizations of all children.
- It's like a car seat: vaccine protects little ones against a seriously dangerous possibility, even if it's unlikely to happen.



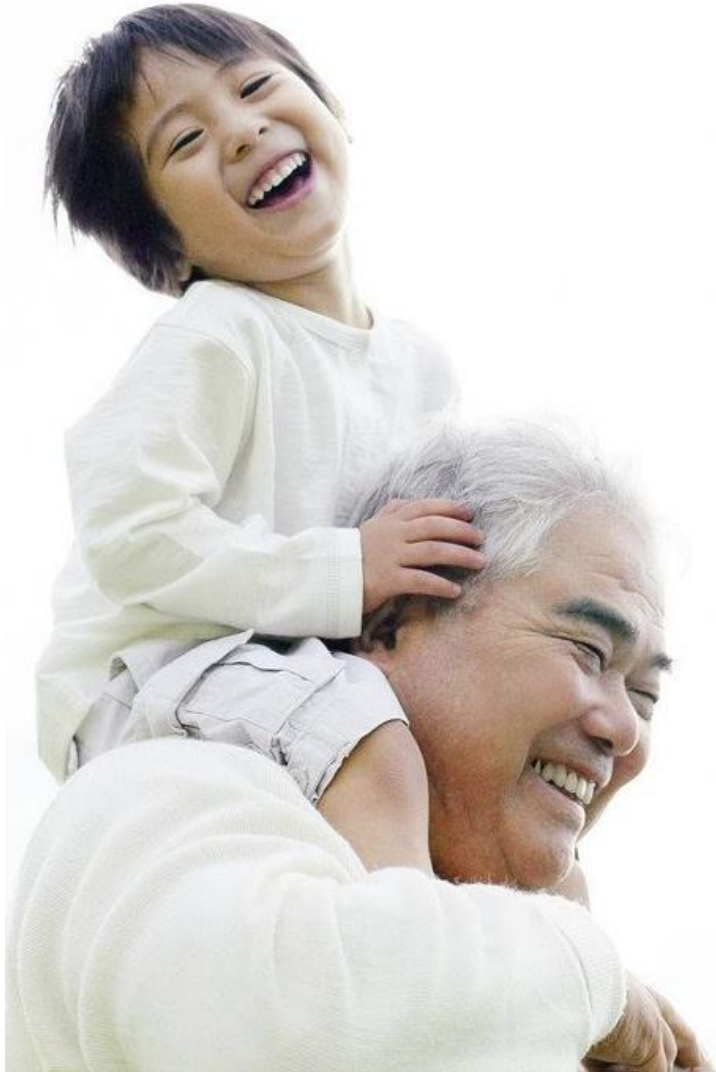
# Vaccination helps kids be kids.

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.**

# How many doses of the vaccine will my baby or young child need?

Children should complete the full series of doses for the vaccine to be effective:

- **Pfizer:** 3 doses for children 6 months to 4 years
- **Moderna:** 2 doses for children 6 months to 5 years



# 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 everyone living in the United States, 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.

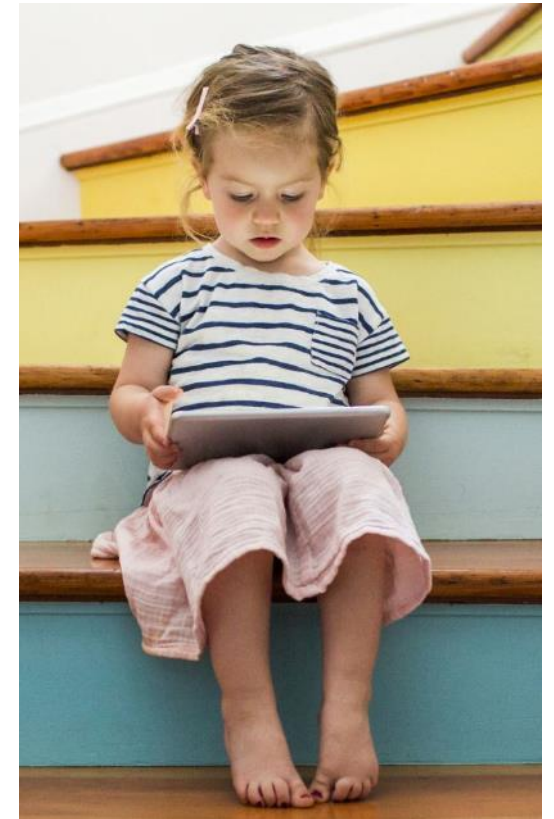
## To find a site near you:

- [kingcounty.gov/vaccine](https://kingcounty.gov/vaccine) or [vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov](https://vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov)
- King County COVID-19 Call Center, **206-477-3977**. Say the language you need for interpretation.



# 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:** Call 206-477-3977 or send an email to [publichealthaccommodations@kingcounty.gov](mailto:publichealthaccommodations@kingcounty.gov).

**Language assistance:** call the King County COVID-19 Call Center: 206-477-3977, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please say your preferred language when connected.

**Transportation:** call the Transportation Resources Line: 425-943-6760, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or visit, [www.FindARide.org](http://www.FindARide.org).



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