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 or 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.

**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.