

The Covid-19 Vaccine and Your Teenager

Important information and frequently asked questions for parents and teenagers



WHY SHOULD MY TEENAGER GET VACCINATED?

If kids don't get that sick from COVID-19, do they need to get vaccinated?

Yes. As of Jan 28, 2021, in the US, nearly 2.82 million children have tested positive for Covid-19 with over 140,000 new child Covid-19 cases reported the last week of January. Currently, children are being infected with Covid-19 at basically the same rate as adults.

My teenager has already had COVID-19. Do they still need the vaccine?

Yes, those eligible should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had Covid-19. Experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from Covid-19. Even if you have already recovered, it is possible—although rare—that you could be infected with the virus that causes Covid-19 again. Getting vaccinated is a safer way to build protection than getting infected.

What about children younger than 16?

The FDA and CDC recently expanded its authorization of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to include individuals 12 and older. Clinical trials have shown extraordinary success in preventing illness among 12-15 year old youth. Ohio's children's hospitals and pediatricians recommend all eligible kids receive the vaccine to protect both themselves and others in their families and community.



Before a vaccine gets approved, a rigorous study is done to assess safety. Once the vaccine is approved, safety continues to be monitored.

COVID-19 VACCINE SAFETY

How do I know the vaccine is safe for my teenager?

Over 66 million individuals in the U.S. have been fully vaccinated. We now have extensive data, including the research from the Pfizer clinical studies, to show the vaccine to be safe and effective in teenagers.

Are Covid-19 vaccines unsafe because they were developed and approved quickly?

No. Things have moved faster than normal, but scientists have done everything correctly. The FDA was able to approve an Emergency Use Authorization for Pfizer based on its good safety and efficacy profile.

Children account for about **25% of the U.S. population**. Getting them vaccinated will be critical for achieving herd immunity and ultimately ending this pandemic.



WHERE CAN MY ELIGIBLE TEENAGER GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

Visit <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov> to find a vaccine location near you.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION on the Covid-19 vaccines, visit: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines



Ohio Children's Hospital Association

ohiochildrenshospitals.org

