

## Statement on COVID-19 Vaccine for Children from Pediatric Health Providers

We now have variants of COVID-19 in our community that spread more easily. That is why it is now even more important than ever to protect our children and our community. One of the best ways to do this is by getting vaccinated against COVID-19 including booster doses. The vaccines we have to prevent COVID-19 were developed using the normal process for making vaccines. No steps were skipped. We now have lots of experience to show that these vaccines are both safe and very effective in preventing serious infections in children. Vaccines also lower the spread of COVID-19 to other people.

With the approval of the COVID-19 vaccine, we now have another tool to protect children. Kids who are 5 years of age and older can receive the vaccine. Kids who are 12 to 17 years of age can receive a booster dose, depending on the time since their last vaccine.

Throughout the pandemic, children have been less likely than adults to become severely ill from COVID-19. However, serious infections and even death can occur even in previously healthy children. And like adults, some children can develop “Long-COVID,” symptoms that last for weeks or months after the infection.

Fortunately, there are many benefits to vaccinating children against COVID-19.

- Vaccination protects children from infection and serious or prolonged illness.
- Vaccinated people are less likely to spread the virus to others, including those at higher risk of severe disease.
- Preventing the spread of the virus among children helps to ensure schools and childcare facilities can operate without shutdowns.
- Keeping children and adults from going to the emergency room and into the hospital helps doctors and nurses take care of the people who need it not just for COVID-19 but for other problems like heart attacks, strokes, and serious injuries.

As providers of pediatric care in your community, we support the use of COVID-19 vaccines and boosters in children. If you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccines, please talk to your healthcare provider. As always, we are here to answer your questions to help you make the best choices to keep your children safe and healthy.

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## State and area resources for Child Vaccinations

View these links for help finding a vaccination site for children.

- [Vaccine.gov](#) - This site allows you to search by zipcode and age range. Select ages 5-11 or 12+ to find clinics offering vaccinations for children. Results range from retail pharmacies, such as Walgreens and CVS, and local pharmacies and clinics.
- **Local retail pharmacies** - Visit [CVS](#) or [Walgreens](#) to book a vaccination appointment online at a clinic convenient to you and your family.
- [Revive StL County](#) - This site provides valuable resources, including vaccination sites and local vaccine events.
- [St. Louis City](#) - At this time, the City of St. Louis Department of Health will vaccinate anyone between the ages of 12 and 18. A parent must be present for individuals under 18.
- [St. Charles County](#) - the Department of Public Health offers vaccinations to anyone ages 5 and older. Children receive the Pediatric Pfizer COVID vaccine.
- [Covidvaccine.mo.gov](#) - Find Pediatric providers for Children ages 5-11. You can also view Pediatric Covid-19 Vaccine Facts on this site.
- [dph.illinois.gov](#) - Find COVID-19 Vaccination for Young People FAQs.
- [cdc.gov](#) - As always, the CDC provides the latest information on COVID-19 and vaccinations, including a resource page for children with links to find local vaccination clinics.
- **More tips** - You can also contact your pediatrician to see if they can administer the vaccine or help you understand available options for your children. Your child's school may also have tips and resources for students and families.