YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE, ANSWERED

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently authorized emergency use of the COVID-19 vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 to include use in children as young as 6 months of age.

We want to help address uncertainties you may have about your infant or toddler receiving a COVID-19 vaccine with facts from the CDC. Through answering common questions about children and the vaccine, we hope to provide you with the knowledge you and your children deserve and alleviate your concerns.

The CDC recommends everyone ages 6 months and older get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Which COVID-19 vaccines have been approved for children and babies?

The FDA authorized the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 6 months through 4 years (Pfizer vaccines for ages 5 and up are already available). The Moderna vaccine is authorized for children ages 6 months to 17 years.

Are the COVID-19 vaccine doses for children and babies the same as they are for adults?

No. With the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, the primary series for children under age 5 is three 3-microgram doses, while children 5 to 11 receive two 10-microgram doses. Those 12 and up receive two 30-microgram doses, which is the same for adults.

For the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the primary series for children under age 6 is two 25-microgram doses, compared to two 50-microgram doses for ages 6 to 12, and two 100-microgram doses in ages 12 and up.

Are there side effects with the COVID-19 vaccines in young children?

Both authorized COVID-19 vaccines produced mild side effects in young children. The side effects are similar to other infant and child vaccines.

If my child or baby already had COVID-19, should they still get the vaccine?

Yes, your child should have a COVID-19 vaccination regardless of whether they have already had COVID-19. This is because the vaccine provides additional protection by reducing the risk of a repeat COVID-19 infection. It is recommended that your child wait one month after resolution of COVID-19 symptoms before getting vaccinated.

Can my child get the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccinations?

Yes. The COVID-19 vaccine can be given at the same time or any time before or after any other childhood vaccinations, including the flu shot.

Should my child get the vaccine if he/she has allergies?

Tell the vaccination provider about any allergies your child may have. The COVID-19 vaccine does not contain any food or latex allergens. Protocols for monitoring are in place to assure that people with allergies can safely receive the vaccine.

Where can my child or baby get vaccinated?

There are several sites available for children under 5 to get vaccinated against COVID-19 including hospitals, doctors' offices, community health centers and pharmacies.

Here are three ways to find vaccines near you:

• Go to vaccines.gov

• Text your zip code to 438829

• Call 1-800-232-0233

Sign your child up for v-safe, a free and confidential smartphone-based tool you can use to report any side effects your child may have after getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

Will my child or baby need COVID-19 boosters?

The FDA said that, based on experience with adults and older children, a booster dose may be needed in children under 5. Moderna has begun testing booster shots in all pediatric age groups.

Can I give my child any medications before or after their vaccine to minimize the side effects?

It is not recommended that you give pain relievers before vaccination to prevent side effects. In general, aspirin is not recommended for use in children and adolescents less than 18 years of age.
If your child has a fever or achiness after vaccination, you can give them a non-aspirin pain reliever like acetaminophen or ibuprofen to help them feel better. Ask your child's healthcare provider for advice on using a non-aspirin pain reliever and other steps you can take at home after your child gets vaccinated.

If your child has pain at the injection site, place a clean, cool, damp cloth on the area to reduce swelling and discomfort.

For more information about COVID-19 topics and how the pandemic can affect you and your family, visit www.cdc.gov/COVID19. You can also contact your local health department or pediatrician's office for additional COVID-19 vaccine information.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires that vaccine recipients or their caregivers are provided with Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) fact sheets to help make informed decisions about vaccination. The EUA fact sheet is specific to each authorized COVID-19 vaccine, is developed by the manufacturer of the vaccine, and is authorized by the FDA. Links to the fact sheet documents are available at www.CDC.gov