

Frequently Asked Questions

What were the results of the Pfizer clinical trial in adolescents?

In March, [Pfizer announced](#) that the trial found no symptomatic infections among vaccinated adolescents age 12 to 15. The participants produced strong antibody responses and had side effects similar to 16- to 25-year-olds. The vaccine appeared to be at least as effective – if not more – than it is in adults.

Why should my child get the COVID-19 vaccine?

About a year ago, children made up 3 percent of the COVID-19 cases in the U.S. That percentage shot up to [around 22 percent at the beginning of May](#). The spike is likely due to children not yet being vaccinated and to the spread of the B.1.1.7 variant, which seems to be more contagious in children. Michigan recently saw a [record-breaking number of children hospitalized](#) with COVID-19. While children are less likely to have a serious outcome from a COVID-19 infection, there have been an estimated 300-600 pediatric deaths from the virus in the U.S.

I'm still nervous about my child getting the vaccine.

We have excellent data that shows the vaccine is safe and effective. We also have strong data that shows the COVID-19 virus is very infectious and deadly. Over 580,000 Americans have lost their lives to the virus, and that number grows every day. An emergency use authorization (EUA) from the FDA doesn't mean good science and research were skipped. It just means we needed to do things a little differently and more quickly to protect our health and save lives.

I want my teen to get vaccinated, but they don't think they need to. What advice do you have?

We need everyone's help in ending the pandemic – including our young people. Some experts believe that we need 80 to 90 percent of the population to be immune in order to achieve herd immunity. In the meantime, more variants could develop. Each new variant has the possibility of being more transmissible and deadly than the last and could hinder the effectiveness of our existing vaccines.

Children are getting sick with COVID-19 and its variants. Many are suffering long-term symptoms. They're being hospitalized, and some are even dying. Children can also play a role in transmission. With vaccination, adolescents are doing more than protecting their own health. They're also protecting the health of those who can't get vaccinated yet or who are at high risk of severe disease.

What side effects can adolescents expect?

Children age 12 to 15 may experience [the same side effects](#) commonly seen in young adults who have already been vaccinated. Most will have no side effects, especially after the first dose. The most common side effect is a sore arm. Others include fever, headache and muscles aches. On rare occasions, anaphylaxis has occurred.

What other resources do you recommend?

If you have more questions about the COVID-19 vaccine and your child, reach out to your pediatrician or family medicine provider. You can also get updated information from the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and the [CDC](#).