

COVID-19 VACCINES & CHILDREN

Widespread vaccination for COVID-19 is a critical tool to best protect everyone from COVID-19 and COVID-19 related complications. Children and teens who are fully vaccinated can safely resume many activities that they did prior to the pandemic.

WHY SHOULD CHILDREN OVER 5 BE VACCINATED?

Children who get COVID-19 can get very sick, require hospitalization, and even die. Younger school-aged children who get infected can spread COVID-19 to people in their households and school settings.

ARE THE VACCINES SAFE FOR CHILDREN OVER 5?

Yes. The vaccines are safe for children in this age group. Clinical trials were conducted with thousands of children and no serious safety concerns were identified.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS?

Like in adults, the majority of side effects are mild, including pain at the injection site, fever, fatigue, headache, and muscle aches. Rare cases of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the outer lining of the heart) in adolescents and young adults have been reported more often after getting the second dose than after the first dose of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines.

WILL THE VACCINES CAUSE FERTILITY PROBLEMS IN CHILDREN?

No. There is no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, can cause female or male fertility problems. There is no evidence that the COVID-19 vaccine affects puberty.

CAN CHILDREN GET SICK FROM COVID-19?

As of October 2021, children ages 5 through 11 years have experienced more than 8,300 COVID-19 related hospitalizations and nearly 100 deaths from COVID-19. Children can experience both short and long-term health problems after infection.

WHAT IS IN THE COVID-19 VACCINES FOR CHILDREN?

The ingredients in the COVID-19 vaccines are safe and approved by the FDA. None of the vaccines contain eggs, gelatin, latex, or preservatives. All COVID-19 vaccines are free from metals such as iron, nickel, cobalt, lithium, and rare earth alloys. They are also free from manufactured products such as microelectronics, electrodes, carbon nanotubes, or nanowire semiconductors.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A CHILD TURNS 12 BETWEEN THE FIRST & SECOND DOSE?

Vaccine dosages are based on age at the time of vaccination and not size or weight. If a child turns from 11 to 12 years of age in between their first and second dose, the second dose should be the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for people 12 years and older.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

covid.riverstonehealth.org