

Answers for Parents

About COVID-19 Vaccinations for Kids

Should kids be vaccinated? **Yes.**

- Over 30% of new COVID-19 infections are in children and adolescents.
- More than 600 children have died of COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic.
- COVID-19 is a top 10 cause of death for children in the U.S.
- Vaccines greatly reduce community transmission.
- COVID-19 vaccines are 90%+ effective in clinical trials. No severe cases of COVID-19 during study.

My child had COVID-19 do they need to be vaccinated? **Yes.**

- Kids still need to be vaccinated to better protect them from variants of concern.
- The vaccine strengthens kids' immune responses (antibody and T-cell protection).
- Vaccines prevent long COVID-19 and improve symptoms of those who already have it.

Are there serious side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine? **No.**

- Side effects that may come with COVID-19 vaccines are short-term.
- Fever, fatigue, headaches, chills, diarrhea, and muscle pain are possible.
- Myocarditis after vaccination is very rare, and very mild compared to myocarditis cases after COVID-19 infection.
- It's biologically impossible for messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines to alter DNA.

Was the COVID-19 vaccine for kids rushed? **No.**

- Decades of previous work were leveraged to get us a vaccine in 9 months.
- Research on this vaccine started in 2003 thanks to SARS, COVID-19's cousin.
- High rates of disease meant it was easy to find and study cases during clinical trials.
- Over 150,000 people flooded to participate in the U.S. trials.
- COVID-19 vaccines are held to the highest safety standard.

Breakthrough Biotechnology (a.k.a. Cool Science)

Messenger RNA (mRNA) biotechnology has been tested on cancer, allergies and SARS (the family of viruses that COVID-19 belongs to).

mRNA is not new science but before COVID-19 – it wasn't effective.

mRNA breaks down very quickly in the body, so it needs a carrier.

Scientists found that fat bubbles work great for carrying the mRNA to fight COVID-19.

With COVID-19, mRNA vaccines are very safe and effective.



Learn more and find a vaccination location for your child at [MaxTheVaxNE.org](https://www.MaxTheVaxNE.org)

Adapted from a patient handout by Epidemiologist, Dr. Katelyn Jetelina, MPH, PhD