



Young people ages 12-17 are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine made by Pfizer.

Vaccinations are always free. Neither you nor your child will be asked about your immigration status.

Visit: [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinatelacounty.com) or [VacunateLosAngeles.com](https://www.vacunatelosangeles.com) (Spanish) to find a vaccination.

Why should my child get vaccinated against COVID-19?

Over 4 million children ages (0-17 years) have tested positive for COVID-19 in the US since the start of the pandemic. Even though COVID-19 is often milder in children than adults, some children can get very sick or have lasting health problems from COVID-19. Getting your child vaccinated lowers their risk of getting infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. The vaccine will also protect against Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) - a rare but serious condition in young people who have had COVID-19.

Children who get infected can spread the virus to others even if they don't feel sick. Getting vaccinated helps to protect friends and families, as well as the larger community. This includes protecting people with weak immune systems and children under 12, who can't be vaccinated yet.

Once your child is fully vaccinated, it will be safer for them to hang out with friends, play sports or travel to see family. They won't be required to test in order to play sports. They also do not need to quarantine if they travel out of state or if a friend, family member, teacher or teammate gets COVID-19.

Which COVID-19 vaccine can my child receive?

Youth aged 12-17 can receive the Pfizer vaccine. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in people 16 years of age and older. The vaccine is authorized by the FDA for emergency use in people 12-17 years of age.

The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are only authorized for people 18 and older at this time. Moderna has submitted an application for their vaccine to be authorized for use in 12-17 year olds. Johnson & Johnson is currently doing clinical trials of their vaccine in 12-17 year-olds.

To learn more about the vaccines, please see each vaccine's Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers: [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#), [Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#), and [J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine](#).

Why is the vaccine only for youth 12 and over? When will younger children be able to get it?

Children under the age of 12 cannot get vaccinated yet because there isn't enough information about how these vaccines work in this age group. Clinical studies are still being done in children under 12. Depending on the results of those trials, younger age groups may be eligible to get the vaccine in the late fall or early winter.

Where can I get my teen vaccinated?

Vaccines are offered at hundreds of locations throughout LA County including special COVID-19 vaccination sites, clinics, pharmacies, schools and pop-up sites. Many locations do not require an appointment. Keep an eye out for a vaccine clinic in your neighborhood. In-home vaccination is also available for people who are homebound. To learn more, visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinatelacounty.com) and click on "[How to Get A Vaccine](#)." You can also call the Vaccine Call Center at 833-540-0473. It is open daily from 8am to 8:30pm. If you are looking for a vaccine for a 12–17-year-old, be sure to pick a location that offers the Pfizer vaccine.



What documents do I need to bring to get my teen vaccinated?

Youth aged 12-17 need proof of age and consent from a parent or legal guardian in order to get vaccinated. Families should check with the place they plan to go for the vaccine about their consent requirements. You can also check the email or text you got when you made the appointment to see what documents you need to bring. If you go to a site where you do not need to make an appointment, bring a document that shows your child's proof of age. For information about the requirements at LA County Department of Public Health vaccine sites, visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinate.lacounty.gov) or call the Vaccine Call Center (see above).

Do youth 12-17 get a smaller dose than adults?

No. The Pfizer vaccine dose is the same for youth (ages 12-17) as it is for adults. It is given as 2 doses 21 days apart. It is important to get the second dose to get the full protection from the vaccine. Your child is fully vaccinated 2 weeks after they get the second dose.

What are the side effects for youth?

Vaccine side effects are similar in children and adults. They can include a sore arm, fever, feeling tired, chills, headache, and nausea. These side effects may limit some daily activities, but should go away in a couple of days. Not everyone will get them. Side effects are normal and a sign that the body is building immunity.

Can my child get vaccinated against COVID-19 and other diseases at the same time?

Yes. Children age 12 and over can get a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines, such as measles and whooping cough. If your child gets a COVID-19 vaccine at a place that doesn't offer the other vaccines that they need, you can go to a different location to get them at any time. There is no need to wait between vaccines.

Can people with allergies get a COVID-19 vaccine?

It depends.

- People who are allergic to things like oral medication, food (including eggs), latex, pets, or pollen, or people who have a family history of allergies, can be vaccinated. None of the vaccines contain eggs, gelatin, latex, or preservatives.
- People who have had an allergic reaction to a vaccine or injectable therapy (even if it was not severe) should talk to a doctor to decide if it is safe to get vaccinated.
- People who are allergic to Polyethylene Glycol (PEG), should not get the Pfizer (COMIRNATY) or Moderna vaccine. They should talk to a doctor to see if they can get the J&J vaccine.
- People who are allergic to polysorbate, should not get the J&J vaccine. They should talk to a doctor to see if they can get the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

Youth aged 12-17 can only receive the Pfizer vaccine at this time.

There is a small risk of anaphylaxis (a severe type of allergic reaction) with any vaccine. This is why everyone is observed for a short time after getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

Information about allergic reactions may change. For details and to check the latest guidance, see the CDC [COVID-19 Vaccines for People with Allergies](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s110221-covid-19-vaccine-allergies.html) webpage and talk to a doctor.



What is in the vaccines?

For a full list of ingredients, please see each vaccine's Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers: [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#), [Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#), and [J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine](#). The Pfizer (COMIRNATY) and Moderna vaccines contain Polyethylene Glycol (PEG), and the J&J vaccine contains polysorbate. None of the vaccines contain eggs, gelatin, latex, or preservatives.

My child already had COVID-19, should they still get vaccinated?

Yes. Your child should get vaccinated even if they already had COVID-19. We don't yet know how long someone is protected after they have had COVID-19. Getting vaccinated will boost their immunity and give them better and more lasting protection against COVID-19. This includes protection against variants of the virus that may be more infectious or cause more serious illness.

Is it safe for children ages 12-17 to get the vaccine?

Yes. After thorough clinical trials, Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine – the same vaccine already safely administered to millions of people age 16 and over – was authorized by the FDA for youth aged 12 to 15 in May. The studies showed that Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is [safe](#) and [effective](#) in children age 12-17 as well as in adults. The vaccine now has full approval from the FDA for people age 18 and over and continues to be monitored for safety.

Parents should be aware of reports of inflammation of the heart muscle (myocarditis) or outer lining of the heart (pericarditis) in a people who received Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. These reports are rare, given the number of vaccine doses administered. Most of the cases were in male adolescents and young adults and most occurred within several days after vaccination, more often after the second dose. If your adolescent, or anyone else, has any of the following symptoms after receiving a vaccine, they are advised to seek medical help right away:

- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Feelings of having a fast beating, fluttering, or pounding heart.

Most patients with myocarditis and pericarditis who received care improved with medicine and rest and felt better quickly. Those who experience these conditions can usually return to their normal daily activities after their symptoms improve, although they should speak with their cardiologist (heart doctor) before returning to exercise or sports. It is important to note that myocarditis and pericarditis are more common in people who get COVID-19, and the risks to the heart from COVID-19 infection can be more severe. For more information, visit the CDC webpage [Myocarditis and Pericarditis Following mRNA COVID-19 Vaccination](#).

Another rare side effect is anaphylaxis. This is a serious allergic reaction that can happen after any vaccination. Everyone is observed for a short time after getting a COVID-19 vaccine so that if anaphylaxis does happen, it can be treated right away. Learn more on the CDC webpage [What to Do If You Have an Allergic Reaction after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#).

The CDC continues to recommend [COVID-19 vaccination](#) for everyone 12 years of age and older. The known risks of COVID-19 illness and its related, possibly severe complications (such as long-term health problems, hospitalization, and even death) far outweigh the potential risks of having a rare adverse reaction to vaccination, including the possible risk of myocarditis or pericarditis.



Can my child get COVID-19 from being vaccinated?

Your child cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine. It is impossible because none of the vaccines that are used in the US contain any form of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Does the vaccine cause infertility?

There is no biological reason or any evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause fertility problems in females or males. Some people who were vaccinated as part of the COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials and many people who were vaccinated since the trials have become pregnant. The vaccines do not change a person's DNA and there is no evidence they affect adolescent development.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine affect my child's periods?

Some people have reported a change in their period after getting the vaccine, including heavier flow and painful cramps. We don't yet know if these changes are due to the vaccine - menstrual changes were not reported from the vaccine trials and no study results are available on this issue yet. It is important to remember, many things can cause a change to menstrual cycles such as stress, and changes in sleep, diet, exercise, and some medicines and irregular periods are very common among teens. If your child has concerns about their periods, it is recommended that they talk to their doctor.

Will the COVID-19 vaccine have any long-term side effects on my child?

Long-term side effects following any vaccination are very rare. Based on what we know from other vaccines, any rare, long-term side effects that happen, usually begin to appear within six weeks of getting a vaccine. For this reason, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) required each of the COVID-19 vaccines to be studied for at least eight weeks after the final dose before they authorized them for use. The CDC continues to monitor COVID-19 vaccines after they are authorized as they are used in more and more people. If a safety issue is found with any vaccine, the FDA and the vaccine manufacturer work together to address the safety concern (for example, a problem with a specific lot, a manufacturing issue, or the vaccine itself).

If my child gets an adverse reaction (possible side effect) after they are vaccinated, how can I report it?

If your child has an adverse reaction after being vaccinated, talk to your doctor and report the reaction to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (or VAERS). Report it even if you aren't sure that the vaccine caused it. VAERS is an early warning system that the FDA and CDC use to find possible safety problems with any vaccine. To make a report, call 1-800-822-7967 or visit <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>.

If you have a smart phone you can help CDC monitor the vaccines by signing up your child for [V-Safe](#). **V-safe** is a smartphone-based tool that sends text messages to check in on your child after they have been vaccinated. Each child should be signed up separately. All **v-safe** text messages are sent directly to the parent or guardian's smartphone.

VAERS and V-safe should not be used for medical advice. If your child has symptoms or health problems that worry you after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, please call your doctor or seek medical help.

How do I talk to my child about the COVID vaccine?

It's important for young people to know the facts about the COVID-19 vaccine. There is a lot of misinformation on COVID-19 and the vaccines being spread on the internet and social media. Be sure to talk



to your teens about COVID-19 and answer any questions they may have.

Let them know about the health risks if someone gets COVID-19 and how the vaccine can help protect them. Explain that the vaccine is safe and that it does not have the virus. Go over the side effects with them and let them know that side effects are normal. Comfort them if they are nervous about getting a vaccination.

Remind them that getting vaccinated will help protect their family and friends. It will also make it safer for them to do things like play sports, hang out with friends, and visit family.

If they have questions or concerns, it is a good idea to have them talk to a well-informed, trusted person, such as a family doctor or pediatrician.