COVID-19 vaccines are effective

- COVID 19-vaccines are effective and can reduce the risk of getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.
- COVID-19 vaccines also help children and adults from getting seriously ill even if they do get COVID-19.
- While COVID-19 tends to be milder in children than adults, it can make children very sick, require hospitalization, and some children have even died. Children with underlying medical conditions are more at risk for severe illness compared to children without underlying medical conditions.
- Getting children ages 5 years and older vaccinated can help protect them from serious short- and long-term complications.
- Getting everyone ages 5 years and older vaccinated can protect families and communities, including friends and family who are not eligible for vaccination and people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe, including for children ages 5 through 11 years

- Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines since they were authorized for emergency use by FDA.
- COVID-19 vaccines have undergone and will continue to undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history.
- A growing body of evidence has shown that these vaccines are safe and effective.
- COVID-19 vaccines were developed using scientific methods that have been around for decades.
- Before recommending COVID-19 vaccination for children, scientists conducted clinical trials. The FDA gave the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine emergency authorization to use in children ages 5 years through 15 years and full approval to use in people ages 16 years and older.
- There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause fertility problems.
- The benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks. Reports of adverse events, like allergic reactions or myocarditis or pericarditis, are rare.

Coadministration of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines

- COVID-19 vaccines may be administered without regard to timing of other vaccines. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines on the same day.

COVID-19 vaccine recommendations for children and adolescents

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant impacts on the health and well-being of children. While children and adolescents are less likely to develop severe COVID-19 compared to older adults, severe illness (i.e., hospitalization, intensive care unit admission, death), and complications of SARS-CoV-2 infection (e.g., MIS-C, post-COVID conditions) do occur in this population. Among children and adolescents with severe COVID-19, no identifiable risk factor, such as an underlying medical condition, has been reported for approximately one third of cases. In addition, SARS-CoV-2 infection or exposure results in other negative impacts, such as school absences and social isolation.
- Children and adolescents aged 5–17 years are recommended to receive the age-appropriate formulation of a COVID-19 primary vaccine series. At this time, the 2-dose Pfizer-BioNTech primary series is the only FDA-approved or FDA-authorized vaccine for children and adolescents aged 5–17. Although many children and adolescents may have experienced prior SARS-CoV-2 infection, COVID-19 primary vaccination is recommended for everyone aged 5 years and older, regardless of a history of underlying medical conditions, symptomatic or asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection, or seropositivity.