

Getting Vaccinated for COVID-19: Youth 6 months -17 years old

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Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna are vaccines authorized for youth ages six months to 17 years.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized both vaccines for emergency use for children six months to 17 years and found them to be highly effective with no serious safety concerns. The size of dose of the vaccine is based on the age of the child, not the weight. For the Pfizer- BioNTech vaccine, children ages five years and older require two doses, administered three weeks apart. Children should also get a booster shot five months after the second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. For the Moderna vaccine, children over six years will get two doses, four weeks apart. Children under five will receive a lower dose of the vaccine than older youth or adults. Children under five years old require three smaller doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The first two doses should be three weeks apart and the third dose is eight weeks after the second dose. Children under six years require two doses of the Moderna vaccine, four weeks apart. To find out where your child can get a COVID-19 vaccine, visit: www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines



Permission from a parent or guardian is required for youth under age 17

- Parents or guardians can give permission in two ways:
 1. By phone with a witness listening on the phone line, as arranged by the vaccination site
 2. By written consent on paper or electronically.
- Each vaccination site has a consent form. Follow the instructions for submitting the form provided by the vaccination site.
- Some individuals under age 18 may give their own consent for vaccination. For more information, please visit: www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines/public-faq.
- It is recommended, but not required, that a parent or guardian be present during vaccination. For youth where DHHS is the legal guardian, the youth must be accompanied by a caseworker or resource parent, except at school-based vaccination clinics, where it is recommended, but not required, for a resource parent or caseworker to be present.
- If possible, youth should bring a form of identification to their appointment. If no documentation is available, parents or guardians can attest to the youth's eligibility to receive the vaccine.



The vaccine is provided at no cost. The federal government will cover the cost of your vaccine. You should not be charged or billed, but your provider may ask you for your insurance information. Your provider should also not charge you for an office visit if you go in only to get the vaccine.

What vaccines are currently authorized for youth ages six months to 17 years?

There are two vaccines, Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, that have been authorized for emergency use by the FDA for children ages six months to 17 years.

Who should get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Getting vaccinated is the best way to prevent getting COVID-19. You should tell your vaccine provider if your child:

- Has a history of severe allergic reactions
- Has a fever
- Has a bleeding disorder or takes blood thinners
- Is immunocompromised or are on a medicine that affects your immune system
- Is pregnant, plans to become pregnant, or is lactating
- Has received another COVID-19 vaccine

You should talk to your provider if your child has had a serious allergic reaction to the first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine or to any ingredient in the vaccine before getting another dose.

What is in the COVID-19 vaccine?

The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines contain the active ingredient of messenger RNA (mRNA) along with fat, salts, and sugars to protect the active part of the vaccine and help it work better in the body. It does not contain live COVID-19 virus or other preservatives or substances. You cannot get COVID-19 from getting the vaccine.

What happens after my child gets vaccinated?

Your child will need to wait 15 to 30 minutes before leaving the vaccine site so your vaccine provider can help if your child does have an allergic reaction or other side effects. While you wait, you can sign up for v-safe to report any side effects and get a reminder for the next dose: v-safe.cdc.gov.

Will my child have side effects from the vaccine?

It is common to have side effects one to three days after getting the vaccine. Common side effects are tiredness, muscle pain, pain in the arm where your child got the shot, fever, headache, joint pain, chills, nausea, or vomiting. These are signs the vaccine is working. If symptoms don't go away within three to four days, contact your doctor or clinic. You or your vaccine provider can also report side effects to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS): vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html.

What if my child has an allergic reaction?

Call 911 if your child has an allergic reaction after leaving the clinic. Signs of an allergic reaction may include difficulty breathing, swelling of your face and throat, fast heartbeat, a bad rash all over your child's body, dizziness, and weakness.

How many doses does my child need?

For the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine:

- A child under 5 years will need 3 doses
- A child over 5 years will need two doses, three weeks apart, and then a booster dose 5 months later

For the Moderna vaccine:

- 2 doses, one month apart

If your child has a serious medical condition, please talk with your doctor as they may need an additional booster dose

My child is vaccinated, now what?

It will take two weeks after the last dose of the vaccine in the series to get full protection from COVID-19.

How do I find more information?

Visit www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines for more information.