



Plain Language

**What you need to know
about COVID-19 vaccines
for children**

Words to Know

Booster

- Another shot of the COVID-19 vaccine. A booster reminds your body how to fight COVID-19.

COVID-19

- A bad disease that can make people very sick. COVID-19 can kill people. COVID-19 had spread around the world.

COVID-19 Vaccine

- A shot that can keep you from getting COVID-19.

Immunocompromised

- When someone's body has a very hard time fighting off germs.

MIS-C

- A bad condition that some children that catch COVID-19 get. MIS-C can cause organs in the body, like the brain or heart, to swell up. MIS-C can hurt and kill children.

Vaccine

- A shot that can keep you from getting sick.

Variants

- Different kinds of the germ that causes COVID-19.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a bad disease. It makes people very sick. COVID-19 can kill people. COVID-19 has spread around the world. COVID-19 is still spreading. You can read more about COVID-19 in [our fact sheet on the COVID-19 vaccine](#).

What are COVID-19 vaccines?

There are now vaccines for COVID-19. Vaccines are shots. **Vaccines** can keep you from getting sick.

There is a vaccine for measles. There is a vaccine for chickenpox. There is a vaccine for the flu.

Now there is a shot to keep you from getting COVID-19. That shot is called the **COVID-19 vaccine**. You can read more about the COVID-19 vaccine in [our fact sheet about it](#).

What are updated COVID-19 vaccines?

There are now updated COVID-19 vaccines. When the original COVID-19 vaccines were made, they were very good at fighting COVID-19.

But then the germ that causes COVID-19 changed. The germ that causes COVID-19 changed into new variants. **Variants** are different types of the germ that causes COVID-19. You may have heard of different COVID-19 variants, such as:

- Delta
- Omicron
- XBB.1.5

The original vaccines were less good at fighting the new variants of the COVID-19 germ. So scientists made new, updated vaccines. The updated vaccines were made to fight newer variants of the COVID-19 germ. The updated vaccines are better at

fighting the newer variants of the COVID-19 germ.

The updated vaccines are also called bivalent vaccines. The original vaccines are also called monovalent vaccines.

In this fact sheet, we will talk mostly about the updated vaccines.

Who can get vaccinated for COVID-19?

Everyone ages 6 months and older can get vaccinated for COVID-19. This toolkit will only talk about vaccines for children ages 6 months through 17 years old. To learn about COVID-19 vaccines for adults, you can read [our other fact sheets on the COVID-19 vaccine](#).

Children ages 6 months through 17 years can get vaccinated for COVID-19. But the vaccines they can get depend on how old they are. We will talk about children in four groups in this fact sheet. The four groups are:

- Children ages 6 months old through 4 years old
- Children age 5 years old
- Children ages 6 years old through 11 years old
- Children ages 12 years old through 17 years old

What COVID-19 vaccines are there for children ages 6 months old through 4 years old?

There are two different COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 6 months old through 4 years old. Each vaccine is made by a different company. One vaccine is the Pfizer vaccine. The other vaccine is the Moderna vaccine.

The Pfizer vaccine

The Pfizer vaccine is one of the vaccines for children ages 6 months old through 4 years old. For children ages 6 months old through 4 years old, the Pfizer vaccine comes in 3 shots. At least 1 of those shots needs to be an updated COVID-19 shot.

Children who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19

Children ages 6 months old through 4 years old who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19 should get 3 updated shots. Children get their first shot. They wait 3 weeks. Then, they get their second shot. They wait 8 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot.

All 3 shots should be from the updated vaccine. Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got 1 or 2 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

Some children ages 6 months old through 4 years old may have gotten 1 or 2 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. These children should get at least 1 shot of the updated COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got 1 shot of the original Pfizer vaccine should get 2 updated shots. Children get their first shot (of the original vaccine). They wait at least 3 weeks. Then, they get their second shot (of the updated vaccine). They wait 8 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot (of the updated vaccine). Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got 2 shots of the original Pfizer vaccine should get 1 updated shot. Children get their first shot (of the original vaccine). They wait 3 weeks. Then, they get their second shot (of the original vaccine). They wait at least 8 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot (of the updated vaccine). Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got 3 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

Some children ages 6 months old through 4 years old may have gotten 3 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. These children should get 1 shot of the updated Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. The updated COVID-19 vaccine shot is like a booster. A **booster** is a shot of a vaccine that reminds your body how to fight a disease.

Children who got 3 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine should wait at least 8 weeks after their third original shot. After 8 weeks, they can get 1 shot of the updated Pfizer vaccine. Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of the updated Pfizer vaccine, they are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

The Moderna vaccine

The Moderna vaccine is another of the vaccines for children ages 6 months old through 4 years old. For children ages 6 months old through 4 years old, the Moderna vaccine comes in 2 shots. At least 1 of those shots needs to be an updated COVID-19 shot.

Children who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19

Children ages 6 months old through 4 years old who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19 should get 2 updated shots. Children get their first shot. They wait 4 weeks. Then, they get their second shot. Both shots should be from the updated vaccine. Once a child has gotten their second shot of the updated vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got 1 shot of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

Some children ages 6 months old through 4 years old may have gotten 1 shot of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. These children should get 1 shot of the updated COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got 1 shot of the original Moderna vaccine should get 1 updated shot. Children get their first shot (of the original vaccine). They wait at least 4 weeks. Then, they get their second shot (of the updated vaccine). Once a child has gotten their second shot of the updated vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got 2 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

Some children ages 6 months old through 4 years old may have gotten 2 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. These children should get 1 shot of the updated Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. The updated COVID-19 vaccine shot is like a booster. A **booster** is a shot of a vaccine that reminds your body how to fight a disease.

Children who got 2 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should wait at least 8 weeks after their second original shot. After 8 weeks, they can get 1 shot of the updated Moderna vaccine. Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of the updated Moderna vaccine, they are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children ages 6 months old through 4 years old

Some children are immunocompromised. **Immunocompromised** means their bodies have a very hard time fighting off germs. You can read more about what immunocompromised means in [our fact sheet on immunocompromised people and the vaccine](#).

Immunocompromised children ages 6 months old through 4 years old should get vaccinated for COVID-19. Immunocompromised children ages 6 months old through 4 years old can get either the Pfizer vaccine or the Moderna vaccine. Im-

munocompromised children ages 6 months old through 4 years old should follow the vaccination schedules we talked about above.

All immunocompromised children ages 6 months old through 4 years old should get at least 1 dose of the updated vaccine. But immunocompromised children ages 6 months old through 4 years old may be able to get extra shots of the updated COVID-19 vaccine. Immunocompromised children ages 6 months old through 4 years old can get another updated COVID-19 vaccine 2 months after their last updated COVID-19 vaccine.

If you think your child is immunocompromised, talk to their doctor. Your child's doctor will be able to tell you whether your child can get another updated COVID-19 vaccine.

Note on mixing vaccines

Mixing and matching vaccines is where someone gets an updated shot of a different COVID-19 vaccine than the one they originally got.

For example: Joe is an adult. Joe got 2 doses of the original Pfizer vaccine. Now Joe can get an updated COVID-19 vaccine shot. Joe chooses to get an updated Moderna shot. Joe is mixing and matching vaccines.

Children ages 6 months old through 4 years old should not mix and match vaccines. Children ages 6 months old through 4 years old should only get an updated shot of the same COVID-19 vaccine they already got. Children ages 6 months old through 4 years old who got Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines should only get Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines. Children ages 6 months old through 4 years old who got Moderna COVID-19 vaccines should only get Moderna COVID-19 vaccines.

What COVID-19 vaccines are there for children aged 5 years old?

There are two different COVID-19 vaccines for children aged 5 years old. Each vaccine is made by a different company. One vaccine is the Pfizer vaccine. The other vaccine is the Moderna vaccine.

The Pfizer vaccine

The Pfizer vaccine is one of the vaccines for children aged 5 years old. For children aged 5 years old, the Pfizer vaccine is 1 dose of the updated vaccine.

Children who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19

Children aged 5 years old who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19 should get 1 updated shot. Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of the updated Pfizer vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got at least 1 shot of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

Some children aged 5 years old got 1 or more shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Children aged 5 who got at least 1 shot of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine should get 1 updated shot. The updated shot needs to be of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

Children aged 5 who got at least 1 shot of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine should not mix and match vaccines. Mixing and matching vaccines is where someone gets an updated shot of a different COVID-19 vaccine than the one they originally got.

Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of the updated Pfizer vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

The Moderna vaccine

The Moderna vaccine is another of the vaccines for children aged 5 years old. For children aged 5 years old, the Moderna vaccine comes in 2 shots. At least 1 of those shots needs to be an updated COVID-19 shot.

Children who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19

Children aged 5 years old who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19 should get 2 updated shots. Children get their first shot. They wait 4 weeks. Then, they get their second shot. Both shots should be from the updated Moderna vaccine. Once a child has gotten their second shot of the updated vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got 1 shot of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

Some children aged 5 years old may have gotten 1 shot of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. These children should get 1 shot of the updated COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got 1 shot of the original Moderna vaccine should get 1 updated shot. Children get their first shot (of the original vaccine). They wait at least 4 weeks. Then, they get their second shot (of the updated vaccine).

The second shot of the updated vaccine can be from either the Moderna or the Pfizer vaccines. Once a child has gotten their second shot of the updated vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got 2 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

Some children aged 5 years old may have gotten 2 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. These children should get 1 shot of the updated Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. The updated COVID-19 vaccine shot is like a booster. A booster is a shot of a vaccine that reminds your body how to fight a disease.

Children who got 2 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should wait at

least 8 weeks after their second original shot. After 8 weeks, they can get 1 shot of the updated vaccine. The 1 booster shot of the updated vaccine can be from either the Moderna or the Pfizer vaccines. Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of the updated vaccine, they are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children aged 5 years old

Some children are immunocompromised. **Immunocompromised** means their bodies have a very hard time fighting off germs. You can read more about what immunocompromised means in [our fact sheet on immunocompromised people and the vaccine](#).

Immunocompromised children aged 5 years old should get vaccinated for COVID-19. Immunocompromised children aged 5 years old can get either the Pfizer vaccine or the Moderna vaccine. All immunocompromised children aged 5 years old should get at least 1 shot of the updated vaccine. But immunocompromised children aged 5 years old may be able to get extra shots of the updated COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19

Immunocompromised children aged 5 years old who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19 should get vaccinated. Immunocompromised children in this age group can be vaccinated with either the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine or the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Pfizer

Immunocompromised children aged 5 years old who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19 should get 3 updated shots of the Pfizer vaccine. Children get their first shot. They wait 3 weeks. Then, they get their second shot. They wait 4 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot. All 3 shots should be from the updated Pfizer vaccine.

Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Moderna

Immunocompromised children aged 5 years old who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19 should get 3 updated shots of the Moderna vaccine. Children get their first shot. They wait 4 weeks. Then, they get their second shot. They wait 4 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot. All 3 shots should be from the updated Moderna vaccine.

Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who have gotten at least 1 original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine shot

Some immunocompromised children aged 5 years old may have gotten 1, 2, or 3 shots of the original Pfizer vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got 1 or 2 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

Some immunocompromised children aged 5 years old may have gotten 1 or 2 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. These children should get at least 1 shot of the updated Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got 1 shot of the original Pfizer vaccine should get 2 updated shots. Children get their first shot (of the original vaccine). They wait at least 3 weeks. Then, they get their second shot (of the updated vaccine). They wait 4 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot (of the updated vaccine).

Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated Pfizer vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got 2 shots of the original Pfizer vaccine should get 1 updated shot. Children get their first shot (of the original vaccine). They wait 3 weeks. Then, they get their second shot (of the original vaccine). They wait at least 4 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot (of the updated vaccine).

Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated Pfizer vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got 3 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

Some immunocompromised children aged 5 years old may have gotten 3 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. These children should get 1 shot of the updated Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. The updated COVID-19 vaccine shot is like a booster. A **booster** is a shot of a vaccine that reminds your body how to fight a disease.

Children who got 3 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine should wait at least 8 weeks after their third original shot. After 8 weeks, they can get 1 shot of the updated Pfizer vaccine.

Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of the updated Pfizer vaccine, they are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who have gotten at least 1 original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine shot

Some immunocompromised children aged 5 years old may have gotten 1, 2, or 3 shots of the original Moderna vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got 1 or 2 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

Some immunocompromised children aged 5 years old may have gotten 1 or 2 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. These children should get at least 1 shot of the updated Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got 1 shot of the original Moderna vaccine should get 2 updated shots. Children get their first shot (of the original vaccine). They wait at least 4 weeks. Then, they get their second shot (of the updated vaccine). They wait 4 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot (of the updated vaccine).

Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated Moderna vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got 2 shots of the original Moderna vaccine should get 1 updated shot. Children get their first shot (of the original vaccine). They wait 4 weeks. Then, they get their second shot (of the original vaccine). They wait at least 4 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot (of the updated vaccine).

Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated Moderna vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got 3 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

Some immunocompromised children aged 5 years old may have gotten 3 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. These children should get 1 shot of an updated COVID-19 vaccine. The updated COVID-19 vaccine shot is like a booster. A **booster** is a shot of a vaccine that reminds your body how to fight a disease.

Children who got 3 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should wait at least 8 weeks after their third original shot. After 8 weeks, they can get 1 shot of an updated vaccine. The updated vaccine can either be Pfizer or Moderna.

Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of an updated vaccine, they are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who have gotten at least 1 updated Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine shot

Some immunocompromised children aged 5 years old may have already gotten an updated COVID-19 vaccine shot. The updated COVID-19 vaccine shot could have

been either Pfizer or Moderna. These children may be able to get more updated COVID-19 shots. Immunocompromised children aged 5 years old can get another updated COVID-19 vaccine 2 months after their last updated COVID-19 vaccine.

If you think your child is immunocompromised, talk to their doctor. Your child's doctor will be able to tell you whether your child can get another updated COVID-19 vaccine.

What COVID-19 vaccines are there for children ages 6 years old through 11 years old?

There are two different COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 6 years old through 11 years old. Each vaccine is made by a different company. One vaccine is the Pfizer vaccine. The other vaccine is the Moderna vaccine.

The Pfizer vaccine

The Pfizer vaccine is one of the vaccines for children ages 6 to 11 years old. For children ages 6 to 11 years old, the Pfizer vaccine is 1 dose of the updated vaccine.

Children who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19

Children ages 6 to 11 years old who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19 should get 1 updated shot.

Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of the updated Pfizer vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got at least 1 shot of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

Some children ages 6 to 11 years old got 1 or more shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Children ages 6 to 11 who got at least 1 shot of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine should get 1 updated shot. The updated shot can be either the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine or the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Children ages 6 to 11 who got at least 1 shot of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine can mix and match vaccines. Mixing and matching vaccines is where someone gets an updated shot of a different COVID-19 vaccine than the one they originally got.

Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of either the updated Pfizer vaccine or the updated Moderna vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

The Moderna vaccine

The Moderna vaccine is one of the vaccines for children ages 6 to 11 years old. For children ages 6 to 11 years old, the Moderna vaccine is 1 dose of the updated vaccine.

Children who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19

Children ages 6 to 11 years old who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19 should get 1 updated shot.

Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of the updated Moderna vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got at least 1 shot of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

Some children ages 6 to 11 years old got 1 or more shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Children ages 6 to 11 who got at least 1 shot of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should get 1 updated shot.

The updated shot can be either the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine or the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Children ages 6 to 11 who got at least 1 shot of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine **can** mix and match vaccines. Mixing and matching vaccines is where someone gets an updated shot of a different COVID-19 vaccine than the one they originally got.

Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of either the updated Pfizer vaccine or the updated Moderna vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children ages 6 to 11 years old

Some children are immunocompromised. **Immunocompromised** means their bodies have a very hard time fighting off germs. You can read more about what immunocompromised means in [our fact sheet on immunocompromised people and the vaccine](#).

Immunocompromised children ages 6 to 11 years old should get vaccinated for COVID-19. Immunocompromised children ages 6 to 11 years old can get either the Pfizer vaccine or the Moderna vaccine. All immunocompromised children ages 6 to 11 years old should get at least 1 shot of the updated vaccine. But immunocompromised children ages 6 to 11 years old may be able to get extra shots of the updated COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19

Immunocompromised children ages 6 to 11 years old who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19 should get vaccinated. Immunocompromised children in this age group can be vaccinated with either the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine or the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Pfizer

Immunocompromised children ages 6 to 11 years old who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19 should get 3 updated shots of the Pfizer vaccine. Children get their first shot. They wait 3 weeks. Then, they get their second shot. They wait 4 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot. All 3 shots should be from the updated Pfizer vaccine.

Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Moderna

Immunocompromised children ages 6 to 11 years old who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19 should get 3 updated shots of the Moderna vaccine. Children get their first shot. They wait 4 weeks. Then, they get their second shot. They wait 4 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot. All 3 shots should be from the updated Moderna vaccine.

Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated vaccine, they are up-to-date

on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who have gotten at least 1 original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine shot

Some immunocompromised children ages 6 to 11 years old may have gotten 1, 2, or 3 shots of the original Pfizer vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got 1 or 2 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

Some immunocompromised children ages 6 to 11 years old may have gotten 1 or 2 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. These children should get at least 1 shot of the updated Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got 1 shot of the original Pfizer vaccine should get 2 updated shots. Children get their first shot (of the original vaccine). They wait at least 3 weeks. Then, they get their second shot (of the updated vaccine). They wait 4 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot (of the updated vaccine).

Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated Pfizer vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got 2 shots of the original Pfizer vaccine should get 1 updated shot. Children get their first shot (of the original vaccine). They wait 3 weeks. Then, they get their second shot (of the original vaccine). They wait at least 4 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot (of the updated vaccine).

Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated Pfizer vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got 3 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

Some immunocompromised children ages 6 to 11 years old may have gotten 3

shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. These children should get 1 shot of an updated COVID-19 vaccine. The updated COVID-19 vaccine shot is like a booster. A **booster** is a shot of a vaccine that reminds your body how to fight a disease.

Children who got 3 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine should wait at least 8 weeks after their third original shot. After 8 weeks, they can get 1 shot of an updated vaccine. The updated vaccine can either be Pfizer or Moderna.

Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of an updated vaccine, they are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who have gotten at least 1 original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine shot

Some immunocompromised children ages 6 to 11 years old may have gotten 1, 2, or 3 shots of the original Moderna vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got 1 or 2 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

Some immunocompromised children ages 6 to 11 years old may have gotten 1 or 2 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. These children should get at least 1 shot of the updated Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got 1 shot of the original Moderna vaccine should get 2 updated shots. Children get their first shot (of the original vaccine). They wait at least 4 weeks. Then, they get their second shot (of the updated vaccine). They wait 4 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot (of the updated vaccine). Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated Moderna vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got 2 shots of the original Moderna vaccine should get 1 updated shot. Children get their first shot (of the original vaccine). They wait 4 weeks. Then, they get their second shot (of the original vaccine). They wait at least 4 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot (of the updated vaccine).

Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated Moderna vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got 3 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

Some immunocompromised children ages 6 to 11 years old may have gotten 3 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. These children should get 1 shot of an updated COVID-19 vaccine. The updated COVID-19 vaccine shot is like a booster.

A **booster** is a shot of a vaccine that reminds your body how to fight a disease.

Children who got 3 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should wait at least 8 weeks after their third original shot. After 8 weeks, they can get 1 shot of an updated vaccine. The updated vaccine can either be Pfizer or Moderna.

Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of an updated vaccine, they are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who have gotten at least 1 updated Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine shot

Some immunocompromised children ages 6 to 11 years old may have already gotten an updated COVID-19 vaccine shot. The updated COVID-19 vaccine shot could have been either Pfizer or Moderna. These children may be able to get more updated COVID-19 shots. Immunocompromised children ages 6 to 11 years old can get another updated COVID-19 vaccine 2 months after their last updated COVID-19 vaccine.

If you think your child is immunocompromised, talk to their doctor. Your child's doctor will be able to tell you whether your child can get another updated COVID-19 vaccine.

What COVID-19 vaccines are there for children ages 12 years old through 17 years old?

There are two different COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 12 years old through 17 years old. Each vaccine is made by a different company. One vaccine is the Pfizer vaccine. The other vaccine is the Moderna vaccine.

The Pfizer vaccine

The Pfizer vaccine is one of the vaccines for children ages 12 to 17 years old. For children ages 12 to 17 years old, the Pfizer vaccine is 1 dose of the updated vaccine.

Children who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19

Children ages 12 to 17 years old who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19 should get 1 updated shot.

Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of the updated Pfizer vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got at least 1 shot of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

Some children ages 12 to 17 years old got 1 or more shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Children ages 12 to 17 who got at least 1 shot of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine should get 1 updated shot.

The updated shot can be either the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine or the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Children ages 12 to 17 who got at least 1 shot of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine can mix and match vaccines. Mixing and matching vaccines is where someone gets an updated shot of a different COVID-19 vaccine than the one they originally got.

Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of either the updated Pfizer vaccine or the up-

dated Moderna vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

The Moderna vaccine

The Moderna vaccine is one of the vaccines for children ages 12 to 17 years old. For children ages 12 to 17 years old, the Moderna vaccine is 1 dose of the updated vaccine.

Children who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19

Children ages 12 to 17 years old who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19 should get 1 updated shot.

Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of the updated Moderna vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got at least 1 shot of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

Some children ages 12 to 17 years old got 1 or more shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Children ages 12 to 17 who got at least 1 shot of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should get 1 updated shot.

The updated shot can be either the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine or the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Children ages 12 to 17 who got at least 1 shot of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine **can** mix and match vaccines. Mixing and matching vaccines is where someone gets an updated shot of a different COVID-19 vaccine than the one they originally got.

Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of either the updated Pfizer vaccine or the updated Moderna vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got the Novavax vaccine

The Novavax vaccine is another COVID-19 vaccine. Some children ages 12 to 17 got the Novavax vaccine.

The Novavax vaccine works slightly differently than the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. The Novavax vaccine has different ingredients in it than the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

Children ages 12 to 17 who got 1 or more shots of the Novavax vaccine should get 1 updated shot. The updated shot can be from the Pfizer vaccine or the Moderna vaccine.

Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of either the updated Pfizer vaccine or the updated Moderna vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children ages 12 to 17 years old

Some children are immunocompromised. **Immunocompromised** means their bodies have a very hard time fighting off germs. You can read more about what immunocompromised means in [our fact sheet on immunocompromised people and the vaccine](#).

Immunocompromised children ages 12 to 17 years old should get vaccinated for COVID-19. Immunocompromised children ages 12 to 17 years old can get either the Pfizer vaccine or the Moderna vaccine. All immunocompromised children ages 12 to 17 years old should get at least 1 shot of the updated vaccine. But immunocompromised children ages 12 to 17 years old may be able to get extra shots of the updated COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19

Immunocompromised children ages 12 to 17 years old who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19 should get vaccinated. Immunocompromised children in this age group can be vaccinated with either the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine or the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Pfizer

Immunocompromised children ages 12 to 17 years old who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19 should get 3 updated shots of the Pfizer vaccine. Children get their first shot. They wait 3 weeks. Then, they get their second shot. They wait 4 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot. All 3 shots should be from the updated Pfizer vaccine.

Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Moderna

Immunocompromised children ages 12 to 17 years old who have never been vaccinated for COVID-19 should get 3 updated shots of the Moderna vaccine. Children get their first shot. They wait 4 weeks. Then, they get their second shot. They wait 4 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot. All 3 shots should be from the updated Moderna vaccine.

Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who have gotten at least 1 original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine shot

Some immunocompromised children ages 12 to 17 years old may have gotten 1, 2, or 3 shots of the original Pfizer vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got 1 or 2 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

Some immunocompromised children ages 12 to 17 years old may have gotten 1 or 2 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. These children should get at least 1 shot of the updated Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got 1 shot of the original Pfizer vaccine should get 2 updated shots. Children get their first shot (of the original vaccine). They wait at least 3 weeks. Then, they get their second shot (of the updated vaccine). They wait 4 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot (of the updated vaccine).

Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated Pfizer vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got 2 shots of the original Pfizer vaccine should get 1 updated shot. Children get their first shot (of the original vaccine). They wait 3 weeks. Then, they get their second shot (of the original vaccine). They wait at least 4 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot (of the updated vaccine).

Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated Pfizer vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got 3 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

Some immunocompromised children ages 12 to 17 years old may have gotten 3 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. These children should get 1 shot of an updated COVID-19 vaccine. The updated COVID-19 vaccine shot is like a booster. A **booster** is a shot of a vaccine that reminds your body how to fight a disease.

Children who got 3 shots of the original Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine should wait at least 8 weeks after their third original shot. After 8 weeks, they can get 1 shot of an updated vaccine. The updated vaccine can either be Pfizer or Moderna.

Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of an updated vaccine, they are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who have gotten at least 1 original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine shot

Some immunocompromised children ages 12 to 17 years old may have gotten 1, 2, or 3 shots of the original Moderna vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got 1 or 2 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

Some immunocompromised children ages 12 to 17 years old may have gotten 1 or 2 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. These children should get at least 1 shot of the updated Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got 1 shot of the original Moderna vaccine should get 2 updated shots. Children get their first shot (of the original vaccine). They wait at least 4 weeks. Then, they get their second shot (of the updated vaccine). They wait 4 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot (of the updated vaccine).

Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated Moderna vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got 2 shots of the original Moderna vaccine should get 1 updated shot. Children get their first shot (of the original vaccine). They wait 4 weeks. Then, they get their second shot (of the original vaccine). They wait at least 4 weeks. Finally, they get their third shot (of the updated vaccine).

Once a child has gotten their third shot of the updated Moderna vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who got 3 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

Some immunocompromised children ages 12 to 17 years old may have gotten 3 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. These children should get 1 shot of an updated COVID-19 vaccine. The updated COVID-19 vaccine shot is like a booster. A **booster** is a shot of a vaccine that reminds your body how to fight a disease.

Children who got 3 shots of the original Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should wait at least 8 weeks after their third original shot. After 8 weeks, they can get 1 shot of an updated vaccine. The updated vaccine can either be Pfizer or Moderna.

Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of an updated vaccine, they are up to date on

their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who got the Novavax vaccine

The Novavax vaccine is another COVID-19 vaccine. Some immunocompromised children ages 12 to 17 got the Novavax vaccine.

The Novavax vaccine works slightly differently than the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. The Novavax vaccine has different ingredients in it than the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

Immunocompromised children ages 12 to 17 who got 1 or more shots of the Novavax vaccine should get 1 updated shot. The updated shot can be from the Pfizer vaccine or the Moderna vaccine.

Once a child has gotten their 1 shot of either the updated Pfizer vaccine or the updated Moderna vaccine, they are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised children who have gotten at least 1 updated Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine shot

Some immunocompromised children ages 12 to 17 years old may have already gotten an updated COVID-19 vaccine shot. The updated COVID-19 vaccine shot could have been either Pfizer or Moderna. These children may be able to get more updated COVID-19 shots. Immunocompromised children ages 12 to 17 years old can get another updated COVID-19 vaccine 2 months after their last updated COVID-19 vaccine.

If you think your child is immunocompromised, talk to their doctor. Your child's doctor will be able to tell you whether your child can get another updated COVID-19 vaccine.

Will my child have side effects after getting the vaccine?

Some children have side effects after getting vaccinated for COVID-19. This is normal. Most side effects are mild. Most side effects go away in a couple days.

Here are some common side effects from COVID-19 vaccination in children.

For children 3 years and younger:

- Pain where the shot was given
- Crying
- Being tired
- Not wanting to eat

For children 4 years and older:

- Pain where the shot was given
- Fever
- Being tired
- Headache
- Chills

If you are worried about side effects from COVID-19 vaccination, talk to your child's doctor. Your child's doctor can help you make a plan to help your child with side effects.

If your child does not have a regular doctor, you can ask another health care provider who takes care of your child. Some examples of health care providers are:

- Nurses

- Physician assistants
- Pharmacists

How do we know the vaccines are safe for children?

The vaccines are safe for children. The vaccines got tested on children of all ages. The vaccines got tested on children of all races. Then, the children had tests done. The tests looked to see if the children's bodies could fight off COVID-19. The tests showed that the children's bodies could fight off COVID-19.

We know the vaccines are safe for children. We know the vaccines work to protect children from COVID-19.

Children ages 6 months old through 11 years old get smaller shots than adults do. The amount of vaccine in children's shots is smaller than the amount in adults' shots. This is because the children's bodies are smaller than adults' bodies. Children need less vaccine to protect them than adults do.

Children only get as much vaccine as they absolutely need to protect them from COVID-19. They don't get any more vaccine than that.

Where can children get vaccinated for COVID-19?

Most children will get vaccinated for COVID-19 through their doctor. If you have children, you can take them to their doctor for their COVID-19 vaccines. Some pharmacies are also vaccinating children for COVID-19. So are some health clinics. If your children don't have a regular doctor they see, you could take them to a pharmacy or health clinic.

Why is it important for children to get vaccinated for COVID-19?

It is important for children to get vaccinated for COVID-19. When children get vaccinated for COVID-19, they protect themselves from COVID-19. Getting vaccinated means they are less likely to get sick with COVID-19. COVID-19 can make kids really sick. COVID-19 can make kids sick for a long time.

Some children who get COVID-19 also get a condition called **MIS-C**. MIS-C is a bad condition. It can cause organs in the body, like the brain or heart, to swell up. MIS-C can hurt and kill children. The best way to prevent MIS-C is to get children vaccinated for COVID-19.

When children get vaccinated, they also protect others from COVID-19. Getting vaccinated for COVID-19 means they are less likely to spread COVID-19 to others. This protects people who can't get vaccinated, such as:

- Babies under 6 months old
- People with certain disabilities who can't get vaccinated

It also protects people who might not get as much protection from the vaccines, like immunocompromised people.

What if my child has moved into an older age group since their last dose?

The vaccine dosage is how much vaccine a person gets in each shot of the vaccine they get. Vaccine dosages change between age groups. Older children get larger dosages than younger children.

Children who move to an older age group should get the type of vaccine and dosage for the older age group.

For example: Kenny got his original COVID-19 vaccines when he was 11. Now, he

has turned 12. Kenny should now get the updated vaccine dosage for 12 to 17 year olds.

This is confusing! Who can I talk to if I have questions?

Talk to your child's doctor. Your child's doctor can tell you exactly what COVID-19 vaccine your child should get.

If your child does not have a regular doctor, you can ask another health care provider who takes care of your child. Some examples of health care providers are:

- Nurses
- Physician assistants
- Pharmacists

Can my child get other vaccines at the same time as a COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. Children can get other vaccines at the same time as they get a COVID-19 vaccine. This includes getting a flu vaccine at the same time as a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your child's doctor if you want to get your child multiple vaccines at the same time.

What if my child or I need accommodations or help to get their vaccines?

Accommodations are changes that help people with disabilities get access to the same things as people without disabilities. Some common accommodations are:

- A sign language interpreter
- Resources in plain language or Easy Read

- Wheelchair-accessible spaces

Talk to the health care provider giving your child the vaccines. The health care provider can work with you to figure out what accommodations you or your child need. The health care provider can figure out how to provide those accommodations.

You can also contact DIAL. DIAL is the Disability Information and Access Line. DIAL helps people with disabilities get vaccinated for COVID-19. You can reach DIAL through:

- Voice call
- Videophone or TTY call
- Text message
- Email
- Webchat

You can learn more about DIAL at <https://acl.gov/DIAL>.

What will happen with COVID-19 vaccines in the future?

Starting in Fall 2023, COVID-19 vaccines will most likely become yearly shots. They will be like the flu shot you get every year.

The COVID-19 vaccines will most likely change year to year. They will change so they can protect you against the newest variants of COVID-19. Variants are different types of the germ that causes COVID-19. You may have heard of different variants, such as:

- Delta
- Omicron
- XBB.1.5

Some people, like immunocompromised people, may be able to get more than 1 COVID-19 shot a year.

We don't have all the information on what COVID-19 vaccines will look like in the future right now. The government is still making decisions about what will happen to COVID-19 vaccines in the future.

To Learn More

Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC): Pediatric vaccines: <https://publichealthcollaborative.org/topics/children-and-vaccinations/>

PHCC: Children and COVID-19 Vaccination: <https://publichealthcollaborative.org/resources/graphics-children-and-covid-19-vaccination/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/children-teens.html>

CDC: Why Children and Teens Should Get Vaccinated Against COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/why-vaccinate-children-teens.html>

CDC: COVID-19 Vaccine Safety in Children and Teens: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-safety-children-teens.html>

CDC: COVID-19 Vaccination for Children and Teens with Disabilities: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/children-teens-disabilities.html>

CDC: COVID-19 Vaccine Side Effects in Children and Teens: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/side-effects-children-teens.html>