

The COVID-19 Vaccine is now available for kids ages 5 and older!



Why should I vaccinate my child? COVID-19 cases in children can result in hospitalizations, deaths, MIS-C (inflammatory syndromes) and long-term complications, such as “long COVID,” in which symptoms can last for months. Vaccination can protect children from COVID-19 using the safe and effective vaccines already recommended for use in older children and adults. In clinical trials, vaccination was nearly 91 percent effective in preventing COVID-19 among children aged 5-11 years. Getting your children vaccinated can help protect them against COVID-19, as well as reduce disruptions to in-person learning and activities by helping lessen community transmission.

Is this the same vaccine used for adults? The Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine is a lower dose than the one used for adults and children ages 12 and up but is shown to be just as effective.

What are the side effects of the pediatric COVID vaccine? In clinical trials, vaccine side effects were mild, went away on their own, and were similar to side effects seen adults and with other vaccines recommended for children. The most common side effect was a sore arm.

If my vaccinated child is exposed to someone with COVID, do they still have to quarantine? Fully vaccinated individuals, including children, do not need to quarantine if they are exposed to COVID-19. However, if they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19, they will be required to complete a period of isolation (like quarantine) before returning to school. As with other vaccines, please provide a copy of your child’s COVID-19 vaccination record to the school nurse.

Where can I get my child a COVID-19 vaccine? Check with your child’s pediatrician. If they have COVID vaccine, please register for an appointment with their office.

If your child’s pediatrician does not have COVID vaccine, please sign up for an appointment on the Baltimore County COVID Vaccine website: <https://coronavirusvaccineoutreach-bc-gis.hub.arcgis.com/>

For more information: Talk with your child’s pediatrician about COVID vaccine; both the risks and benefits as well as ways to get an appointment. Call the **Baltimore County COVID Hotline: 410-887-3816.**