



COVID-19 VACCINES FOR ADOLESCENTS: WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) **expanded its Emergency Use Authorization** for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to include [adolescents 12-15 years old](#). Here are answers to common parent questions.

WHY VACCINATE THIS AGE GROUP?

- Thousands of children in the U.S. have been hospitalized with COVID-19, and hundreds have died. This highly safe and effective vaccine brings life-saving protection to those who are vaccinated and also protects others.
- While COVID-19 happens more frequently in adults, there's [growing concern about variants](#), which seem to be causing more infections in younger ages.
- Some kids who contract COVID-19 have symptoms similar to a cold, while others experience serious complications. Some develop a severe and dangerous condition called [multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children \(MIS-C\)](#). Additionally, doctors still don't know the long-term effects of COVID infection.
- Serious illness from COVID-19 does not always happen among those who are high risk or have pre-existing conditions. [A vaccine can lower the chances of serious complications for all kids.](#)
- Kids, especially adolescents and teens, have more social contact and greater risk of spreading the virus.

ABOUT THE CLINICAL TRIAL

- The [Phase 3 clinical trial](#) enrolled 2,260 adolescents 12 to 15 years old in the U.S.
- In the trial, 18 cases of COVID-19 occurred in the placebo group, while none occurred in the group that received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.
- Pfizer side effects were consistent with those seen in study participants aged 16 to 25 including pain or swelling/redness at the injection site, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain and fever – all of which typically resolved within 24-48 hours.

WHAT SHOULD PARENTS DO?

- When searching for a COVID-19 vaccine for a child who is 12-17, make sure the location offers the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.
- A parent or guardian must accompany the child to both their first and second doses.
- If you have questions about this authorized vaccine, talk to your pediatrician, pharmacist or family doctor.

"Our youngest generations have shouldered heavy burdens over the past year, and the vaccine is a hopeful sign that they will be able to begin to experience all the activities that are so important for their health and development ... It's essential for children to be vaccinated against COVID-19."

-American Academy of Pediatrics President Lee Savio Beers, MD, FAAP

Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines at
nvcovidfighter.org or by calling 1.800.401.0946

