FACTS ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES
FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

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There is a lot of information out there – and making the decision to vaccinate your child against COVID-19 can be a bit overwhelming. If you have questions, talk to a pediatrician, school nurse, or another trusted healthcare provider about your child and the COVID-19 vaccine.

THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS THE BEST WAY TO KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE.

Although there have been fewer COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations among children, the long-term effects of a pediatric COVID-19 case can be serious and last months. The best way to protect children against COVID-19 and its variants is to get them vaccinated.

PFIZER IS THE ONLY AUTHORIZED AND AVAILABLE COVID-19 VACCINE FOR 5-TO-17-YEAR-OLDS.

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is an mRNA vaccine that requires two doses, 21 days apart. The vaccine for those age 5 to 11 uses the same formula but is one-third the adult dose. Adolescents over the age of 12 are recommended the same dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine as adults.

THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS SAFE AND EFFECTIVE.

Like other pediatric vaccines, the COVID-19 vaccine was thoroughly tested before being recommended. Clinical trials with thousands of children 5 years and older showed the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to be safe and effective. Millions of adolescents in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines under the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history.

COMMON SIDE EFFECTS ARE USUALLY MILD AND GO AWAY QUICKLY ON THEIR OWN.

Like adults, youth may experience short-term side effects – but it's a sign the body is building protection from COVID-19. Most common side effects include soreness at the injection site, feeling tired, or having a headache. These temporary side effects should go away in a few days. Children may experience fewer side effects than adolescents or young adults. No long-term side effects have been detected. There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines impact puberty or reproductive development in any way.

COVID-19 VACCINES ARE WIDELY AVAILABLE AND OFFERED AT NO COST.

Vaccines for anyone, including kids, are offered at no cost – no insurance or government ID is needed. COVID-19 vaccines for individuals of all ages are widely available. Talk to your family health care provider first. To find other locations near you go to **chi.gov/COVIDvax** or contact the City of Chicago COVID-19 helpline at **(312) 746-4835.**

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chi.gov/covidvax