



## GETTING THE FACTS STRAIGHT ON COVID-19 VACCINES FOR CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER

### Is getting a child vaccinated against COVID-19 a greater risk than getting infected with COVID-19?

**No. COVID-19 vaccines are our best defense against the virus, as they help protect young children from serious illness, hospitalization or other long-term conditions from COVID-19.**<sup>1</sup> Even otherwise healthy children can get very sick with COVID-19 and pass it on to others.

While some young children do not experience side effects after getting vaccinated against COVID-19, other children may experience side effects that are mild and temporary including a sore arm, fever or fatigue.

Since there is no way to predict how children will be impacted by COVID-19, getting young children vaccinated against COVID-19 is a safer way to protect them compared to getting sick with COVID-19.

### Are young children less likely to get COVID-19 than adults?

**No. Children are infected with COVID-19 at similar rates to adults. However, while some young children can experience mild symptoms or no symptoms, they are still at risk of a severe COVID-19 infection.**<sup>2</sup>

Even if your child has already contracted a mild COVID-19 case, it is still important to vaccinate them against COVID-19. One study found that children who were vaccinated against COVID-19 had stronger protection against COVID-19 than unvaccinated children who were previously infected with COVID-19.<sup>3</sup>

## PROTECT YOUR CHILD AGAINST COVID-19

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective for children 5 and under and are the best line of defense against the disease. Talk to your child's pediatric-focused nurse practitioner



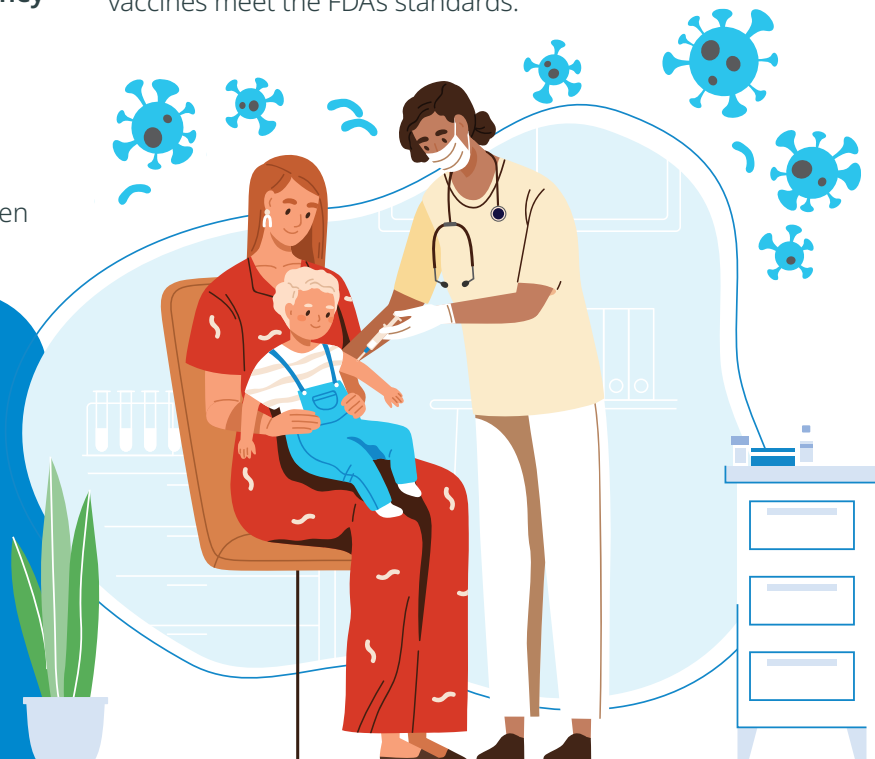
or other health care provider about getting your child protected against COVID-19 or go to [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find an appointment near you.

### Can COVID-19 vaccines impact my child's DNA?

**No. COVID-19 vaccines cannot change or interact with DNA, as they do not enter the part of the body that holds DNA within our cells.** Instead, other parts of our cells use the mRNA vaccine to trigger the body's immune system to produce protective antibodies against the virus that causes COVID-19.<sup>4</sup> Scientists have been studying and developing mRNA vaccines for years across the world, which built a strong foundation for developing COVID-19 vaccines.<sup>5</sup>

### Was the FDA review and approval process for COVID-19 vaccines rushed for children 5 and under?

**No. The FDA maintained a rigorous standard to prove that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and no clinical trial phases for COVID-19 vaccines were skipped.** Before the FDA authorized COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 5 and under, scientists conducted clinical trials with thousands of children and teens to establish their safety and effectiveness. The FDA will only approve or authorize vaccines if clinical trial results show that the vaccines meet the FDA's standards.<sup>6</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2022). <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/recs/grade/covid-19-moderna-pfizer-children-vaccine-etr.html>

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2023). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/pediatric-hcp.html>

<sup>3</sup> Nature Communications (2022). <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-022-30649-1>

<sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2023). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>

<sup>5</sup> Signal Transduction and Targeted Therapy (2022). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8940982/>

<sup>6</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2023). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/how-they-work.html>