



COVID-19 vaccine for 5– to 17-year-olds

FAQs *(Updated 04-01-2022)*

People 5 years of age and older are eligible to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine.

- **Youth who have a compromised immune system:**
 - Those age 5–11 who are immunocompromised may receive a third dose of the pediatric Pfizer vaccine.
 - Those age 12 and older who are immunocompromised may receive a third dose of the adult version of the Pfizer vaccine.
 - Those age 12 and older who are immunocompromised may receive a booster dose three months after their additional dose.
 - Those age 12 and older are eligible to receive a second booster dose four months after their first booster dose.
- **Youth who do not have a compromised immune system:**
 - Those age 5–11 may receive the pediatric version of the Pfizer vaccine.
 - Those age 12 and older may receive the adult version of the Pfizer vaccine.
- **Those age 12–17 are eligible to receive a Pfizer booster dose five months after their second dose.**

Q: Where can people get the Pfizer vaccine?

Visit OHA's [vaccine locator map](#) or the CDC's [VaccineFinder.org](#). Both allow you to search by vaccine type. OHA's vaccine locator tool also allows you to search for vaccination sites that do not require consent from parents or guardians for youth ages 15 to 17 and is available in several languages.

You can also schedule an appointment by calling the phone number on the vaccine provider's website or calling 211 (1-866-698-6155).

In addition, many communities are offering vaccination at schools. Ask or search for information from schools and check the school district's or the school's website for vaccination availability.

Q: Are children eligible to receive a booster dose?

The CDC recommends people 12 years of age and older receive a booster dose five months after their second dose. We don't know when booster doses will be authorized for children 11 or younger. People 5–17 years of age are eligible to receive only the Pfizer vaccine.

Q: Can children who are moderately or severely immunocompromised receive a third dose and booster doses?

Yes, the CDC recommends children 5 years of age and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised receive a third dose of the Pfizer vaccine at least 28 days after their second dose. This additional dose is a part of the primary vaccination series.

Immunocompromised people ages 12 and older are recommended to receive a booster dose three months after their third dose and are eligible to receive a second booster dose four months after their first booster dose. Booster doses for immunocompromised children 5 -11 are not recommended at this time.

Q: Can more than one person be scheduled at the same time?

Some vaccination sites require an appointment, and a parent or guardian may schedule multiple slots around the same time, one for each eligible person. Scheduling can be done through the vaccine provider's website or by calling the phone number on the vaccine provider's website or calling 211 (1-866-698-6155). Visit OHA's webpage, [How to Find a COVID-19 Vaccine in Oregon](#), or the CDC's website, [VaccineFinder.org](#) for information about how to find a vaccine appointment.

Q: What are the side effects for youth?

The possible side effects after receiving vaccine are the same in youth as they are in adults. Most people develop some soreness at the injection site. Fatigue and headache are common. Less common are muscle aches, chills, joint pain, vomiting, or fever. This range of reactions is normal in response to receiving vaccine. Side effects are more common in youth and younger people than among older adults. Most resolve after a day or two.

Myocarditis and pericarditis have been reported in some people after receiving a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer). The cases occurred more often in males ages 12–39 than in females or older men. Medical researchers at the CDC have studied these cases and determined the risk of severe illness from COVID-19 is greater than the risk of developing one of these rare heart conditions after vaccination. Myocarditis and pericarditis are more likely to occur from a COVID-19 infection than as a result of vaccination.

Q: What are myocarditis and pericarditis?

Myocarditis is an inflammation of the heart muscle. Pericarditis is an inflammation of the lining around the heart. Most people who develop one of these conditions after vaccination have recovered quickly on their own without special treatment.

Q: Can my child get vaccinated at school?

Many communities are offering vaccination at school. You can also check the district's or the school's website for more information.

Q: Can youth receive the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine?

No. Currently the only vaccine that has received emergency use authorization by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in people under age 18 is the Pfizer (or Pfizer BioNTech) vaccine. Youth, parents or guardians need to search for appointments or walk-in services in locations that provide the Pfizer vaccine.

Q: When will vaccines be authorized for children younger than 5 years old?

We don't know when the COVID-19 vaccine will be authorized for children younger than age 5.

Q: Do parents or guardians need to accompany their child to their vaccine appointment?

Under Oregon law, minors 15 and older may give consent to receive medical treatment, including vaccinations, when provided by a physician, physician assistant, naturopath, nurse practitioner, dentist or optometrist, or other professionals operating under the license of these providers. Under OHA guidance, these COVID-19 vaccine registered providers may not require consent from a parent or guardian to vaccinate someone age 15, 16, or 17. With the exception of pharmacies, most locations where COVID-19 vaccinations are provided have oversight by a medical provider on this list.

Parental or guardian consent is required to vaccinate people under 14 years old, but the parental or guardian consent requirement does not necessarily mean a parent or guardian must go with the youth to receive the vaccination. Written consent may be obtained in advance. You should contact the vaccine provider or vaccination clinic to determine whether a parent or guardian must be present.

Providers administering COVID-19 vaccinations should make it clear on their website, print materials and at the time a vaccine appointment is made the type of consent from a parent or guardian that is required and whether a parent or guardian must be present at the vaccination appointment.

Q: What should people know before they show up for a vaccination?

The Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective. The FDA requires rigorous safety testing before it will authorize any vaccine for emergency use. The COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer was tested in thousands of study participants and generated enough data to convince the FDA that the vaccine was safe and effective.

If you have health insurance, vaccine providers may charge your insurance company an administration fee for giving you the vaccine. This means that you might be asked for your insurance information when you get your vaccine. If you have health insurance, be sure to bring your insurance card with you to your appointment.

Proof of eligibility or identification is not required. Vaccine providers may ask for proof of eligibility, identification, social security number, or health insurance information. It is up to you whether you provide that information, and it is not required to receive a vaccination. Vaccine providers may also ask if you live in Oregon or what kind of work you do. A vaccine provider should not refuse to give someone the vaccination based on their answers to those questions.

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact the COVID-19 Communications Unit at 1-971-673-2411, 711 TTY or COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhsoha.state.or.us.