

1. How many kids participated in the trial before the vaccine was approved?
 - The Pfizer randomized control trials enrolled 4,637 children ages 5-11 years of age in the United States, Finland, Poland, and Spain from more than 90 clinical trial sites. 3,109 children received the vaccine and 1,528 received placebo.
 - The observed **vaccine efficacy against confirmed COVID-19** at least 7 days after the second dose was **90.7%**.
 - <https://www.fda.gov/media/153447/download>

2. What will happen to my child after he/she/they gets the vaccine? What were their side effects of the childhood COVID-19 vaccine?
 - It is possible your child will experience side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Symptoms near the vaccination site include:
 - redness, swelling, pain at the injection site.
 - Systemic symptoms included:
 - fever, nausea/vomiting, headache, fatigue, chills, new or worsened muscle pain, new or worsened joint pain.
 - Reactions were most common after Dose 2. Pain at injection site, fatigue, and headache were the most common side effects. There have also been rare cases of anaphylaxis and myocarditis also reported.
 - <https://www.fda.gov/media/153447/download>

3. How long are other childhood vaccines in trials before they were approved? How can the COVID-19 vaccine for children be safe if it was developed so quickly?
 - It usually takes about 10 years for research for a vaccine to be fully approved. Clinical trials start with pre-clinical research then progress to Phase I trials for vaccine safety. Phase 2 trials investigate effectiveness and safety. Phase 3 trials investigate side effects, effectiveness, and safety.
 - The COVID-19 vaccine was approved much faster than normal because the pre-clinical research was previously conducted, there were many volunteers that signed up for the clinical trials, and COVID-19 was present and spreading amongst communities.

4. Do children really get sick from COVID-19? I hear some kids don't even show symptoms.
 - **YES!** Children are at least as likely to be infected with COVID-19 as adults. There are over 1.9 million reported cases of COVID-19 in children.
 - COVID-19 is usually a mild disease in children with estimates of 15-50% of pediatric cases reporting no symptoms. However, **some children have serious outcomes** including Multi-system inflammatory Syndrome-Children (MIS-C), long COVID, and myocarditis. Getting COVID-19 can affect school attendance and other activities. Getting vaccinated also decreases transmission to older and/or more vulnerable individuals.
 - Overall, FDA and CDC concluded that the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweighed the risks.
 - <https://www.fda.gov/media/153447/download>

5. What is the COVID-19 vaccine for children? Does the COVID vaccine for children work?
 - The observed **vaccine efficacy against confirmed COVID-19** at least 7 days after the second dose was **90.7%**.
 - **New pediatric 5–11 year-old dose for COVID-19 vaccine at a lower dose of 10 mcg (adult dose is 30 mcg).** It is recommended that children receive 2 doses, 3 weeks apart. Additional doses or boosters are not currently recommended at this time.
 - The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine contains messenger RNA (mRNA) which is genetic material. The vaccine contains a synthetic piece of mRNA that instructs cells in the body to make the distinctive "spike" protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
 - When vaccinated, the body produces copies of the spike protein, which alone does not cause disease, and the immune system learns to react defensively, producing an immune response against SARS-CoV-2.

6. I'm not sure if kids actually spread the virus?
 - **YES!** Young and school aged children may spread COVID-19 in household, school, and childcare settings.

7. Does the vaccine cause infertility?

- There is currently **no evidence** that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause fertility problems (problems trying to get pregnant) in women or men.
- There is currently **no evidence** that antibodies made following COVID-19 vaccination or that vaccine ingredients would cause any problems with becoming pregnant now or in the future.

8. What's the difference between the vaccine for children vs adults?

- The Pfizer vaccine is currently approved for children 5-11 years old.
- The new Pfizer vaccine dose for the 5-11 age range for COVID-19 vaccine is 10 mcg. The adult dose is 30 mcg.

9. Do you recommend the COVID vaccine for kids?

- **Yes!** Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is shown to be safe and effective in the 5 –11 year old age group.
- Risk-benefit analysis favors benefits of vaccination.
- Vaccine dose and formulation for the 5-11 year age group is different from the dose and formulation for age 12 and above. Vaccinating this age group has positive individual and public health implications.

10. What do I do for my 11-year-old about to turn 12?

- It is recommended that children **be vaccinated by age**.
- For example, 11-year-old children should receive the COVID-19 vaccine approved for 5–11 year-old children and 12 year-old children should receive the COVID-19 vaccine approved for 12+ year-olds.

11. How do I talk to my friends and relatives about the Vaccine who may not want to get it?

- Listen with empathy, ask open-ended questions, ask permission to share information, help them find their “why”, help make their vaccination happen
- Please reach out to tconner@npaihb.org for more vaccine confidence information

12. We think we may have been sick back in 2020 – should my kids still get vaccinated?

Yes, children should still get the vaccine even they already had COVID-19.

CDC/ACIP PROCESS
.....

What if my child already had COVID-19? Is it still worth getting the vaccine?

Yes!

Data from Phase 3 Clinical Trial

- ~9% of children had antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 at baseline
- Post-vaccination antibodies were higher in those with antibodies at baseline
- Rates of local and systemic reactions, and adverse events, were lower in children who had antibodies at baseline

Data from U.S. Studies

- Approximately 38% of children aged 5–11 years have antibodies for SARS-CoV-2
- Prior infection can result in protection against infection but not 100%
- Children more likely to have asymptomatic infection compared to adults

13. What outreach is there for students at Chemawa?

- Students recently returned to Chemawa a couple weeks ago. When students returned, they were asked about their vaccine status. Currently, vaccines are being offered to students at Chemawa. Health and safety protocols have also been implemented at Chemawa.

14. Is it beneficial for my 7-year-old get vaccinated if the rest of the family is vaccinated?

- It is recommended that children be vaccinated even if other family members have the COVID-19 vaccine. **Getting the vaccine protects elders and other community members** from getting COVID-19. Children who are not vaccinated who get COVID-19 must also stay home and miss school.

15. Will the vaccine allow children to be in class without masks? Since kids don't wear masks, is a vaccine really needed for the little ones?

- Vaccination is one piece of the puzzle to protect everyone from getting COVID-19. Another important piece of the puzzle includes wearing masks. At this time, it is **still recommended that children continue to wear masks if possible.**

16. Are there any studies of children with underlying medical conditions and the COVID-19 vaccine?

- The COVID-19 vaccine trials did not include children with underlying conditions that affect immune response. Certain underlying conditions can predispose to having worse reactions to COVID-19. It is recommended that patients with underlying medical conditions consult their medical provider about whether the COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for them.

17. What if my child has congenital heart disease? Should they be vaccinated for COVID-19?

- Congenital heart disease is not a contraindication for getting the COVID-19 vaccine. Children with congenital heart disease may be at greater risk of developing complications/severe COVID-19 infections.
- Myocarditis has been seen more commonly in children who get COVID-19 than children who get the COVID-19 vaccine. It is recommended to have a conversation with medical providers before children with congenital heart disease get the COVID-19 vaccination.

18. Will they be developing COVID vaccines for infants?

- Pfizer and Moderna are working on vaccine trials vaccinating down to 6 months of age. These trials will take longer to determine the optimal dose for infants and toddlers.

19. What are tips for keeping children calm when they are afraid of needles?

- Prepare child for vaccination by being honest with children that the vaccine will hurt/sting.
- Consider having the child sitting in a family member/guardian's lap and comforting during vaccination.
- Once the vaccine is done, reinforce that the pain is over and that the process was quick and easy.
- Also consider rewarding the children with a sticker or fun activity after.

20. If one parent is allergic to the vaccine could the child be also?

- **Generally, allergies in parents are not passed down to children.** Just like adults, children are monitored for 15-30 minutes after getting the vaccine for any reactions.

21. How do you find a COVID-19 vaccine?

a. Links for vaccination resources are included as follows:

- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/How-Do-I-Get-a-COVID-19-Vaccine.html?s_cid=10500:when%20is%20the%20vaccine%20for%20covid%2019%20available:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY21
- <https://getvaccinated.oregon.gov/#/locator>
- For those wanting to get vaccinated in the Portland Area there are some appointments available at OHSU: <https://www.ohsu.edu/health/vaccine-scheduling-elvb>. Please don't share widely, it is for community organizations

22. Will children need COVID-19 booster shots like adults?

- Additional **COVID-19 vaccine doses or boosters for children are not currently recommended at this time**. It is currently unknown what the future holds for COVID. It is possible that children will need COVID-19 booster shot like adults in the future.

23. How long after getting COVID-19 should you wait to get the COVID-19 vaccine? Should you wait 3 months?

- If someone has COVID-19, it is important to **wait until that person is no longer infectious before getting the COVID-19 vaccine**. After the individual is no longer infectious, they can get the COVID-19 vaccine any time afterwards.

24. What is the difference between Pfizer and Moderna vaccine? Is Moderna coming up with one?

- The Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines contain messenger RNA (mRNA) which is genetic material. The vaccine contains a synthetic piece of mRNA that instructs cells in the body to make the distinctive "spike" protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. When vaccinated, the body produces copies of the spike protein, which alone does not cause disease, and the immune system learns to react defensively, producing an immune response against SARS-CoV-2.
- The Pfizer vaccine showed efficacy of 95% in adults and 90.7% in children at preventing symptomatic Covid infection after two doses.

The Moderna vaccine was 94.1% effective at preventing symptomatic Covid-19 after the second dose.