



Children and the Vaccines

Vaccines are now available for 12 to 15-year olds

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the use of the Pfizer vaccine in adolescents ages 12 to 15 years old, after a clinical trial that included 2,260 youth participants. The vaccine was found to be safe and 100% effective in preventing COVID-19 in fully vaccinated young adults.¹

Moderna has also announced that its vaccine is 100% effective in preventing COVID-19 in fully vaccinated 12 to 17 years old after a clinical trial with 3,732 youth participants. Authorization for use of the Moderna is expected in June 2021.

Children ages 12 and above will receive the same doses, on the same schedule, as adults. With few exceptions, vaccine doses are not based on weight, age, or size because just a small amount is needed to stimulate the immune system to fight the virus. Smaller children may need different doses, however.

Children under 12 years

Children under 12 years old may need smaller doses of a vaccine. Clinical trials are being conducted now by Pfizer and Moderna with children six months to 11 years old to test the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine in young children and to determine what doses are correct.

The first phase of the trials is dedicated to carefully finding the correct doses for children in different age groups; first 5 to 12 years old, then 2 to 5 years old, and, finally, 6 months to 2 years old.² After that, phases two and three will test safety and effectiveness. Results should be available in the next few months. Applications for authorization for use for these vaccines are expected in the fall of 2021.

The vaccines are safe for children

Safety is paramount when testing vaccines for children. Clinical trials for children and youth follow the same rigorous safety procedures as those with adults plus add additional safety procedures to protect children. The results are reviewed by experts at the CDC, FDA, and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices before vaccines are authorized for distribution. COVID vaccines are safe for children; already, over 600,000 children have been vaccinated³. Safety monitoring is ongoing and utilizes established and new monitoring systems. Learn more about safety at [CDC Vaccine Safety](#).⁴

Vaccinations will help end the pandemic

Vaccinating our children and young adults is very important. As our elders and vulnerable populations are vaccinated, children and young adults are the most exposed, especially with the much more transmissible variants circulating. Children now represent 22% of new cases of COVID-19 and case rates for 18 to 24-year olds are the highest in the US.⁵ Vaccinating our children and young adults protects them and helps protect our communities by stopping the spread of COVID-19.

As Indigenous people, it is our role to learn from those who came before us and nurture those who come next. We dance, we pray, we share, we adapt, we protect.

Protect your children and the future of your community by being vaccinated yourself and having your children vaccinated when the vaccine is available!

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/recs/grade/covid-19-pfizer-biontech-etr-12-15-years.html>

² <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04816643>

³ <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccination-demographic>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/safety-of-vaccines.html>

⁵ <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/05/03/993141036/children-now-account-for-22-of-new-u-s-covid-cases-why-is-that>