

What Children Can Expect After Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

The COVID-19 shot may cause minor side effects in some children and teens. These should go away in a few days, and are a normal sign that their bodies are building protection against the virus. Many people have no side effects, and severe allergic reactions are extraordinarily rare.

COMMON SIDE EFFECTS

On the arm where your child got the shot:

- Pain
- Redness
- Swelling

Throughout the rest of their body:

- Fever
- Chills
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Nausea



HELPFUL TIPS

If your child experiences pain, headache or fever, ask their healthcare provider for tips or non-aspirin medications that might be useful. In general, aspirin is not recommended for use in children and adolescents less than 18 years of age.

If they are sore where they got the shot:

- Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area
- They should use or move their arm gently.

If they have a fever:

- Drink a lot of water
- Get plenty of rest
- Dress lightly



REMEMBER

Side effects may make you feel a little sick, and might interrupt daily activities. But they should go away in a few days.

Most COVID-19 vaccines need 2 shots to fully work. Your child should get their second shot even if they experienced side effects with their first, unless a doctor instructs you otherwise.

COVID-19 vaccines may not fully protect you until one to two weeks after you receive your second shot. It takes time for your body to build antibody protections after any vaccination.



After your child receives their vaccination, be sure to download the v-safe app. This health checker allows you to log your child's vaccination status, report any side effects they might experience, and receive updates on when they're due to receive their second shot.