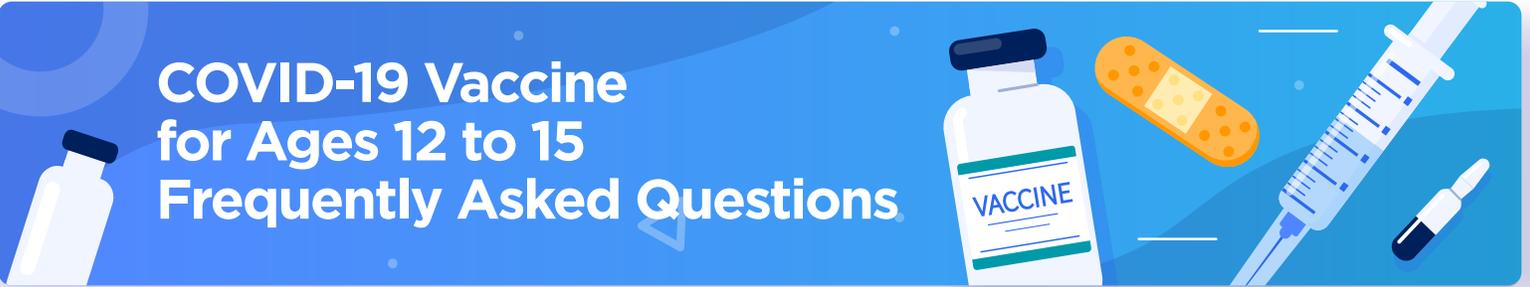


# COVID-19 Vaccine for Ages 12 to 15 Frequently Asked Questions



## Is COVID-19 something people aged 12 to 15 should be concerned about?

COVID-19 poses a significant health risk to children. Although serious lung and heart disease occurs less commonly than in adults, it does occur in children. Many children have been hospitalized and some have died from COVID-19. Even those who don't need hospital care may become very ill and have prolonged periods of illness. There are reports of some complications lasting for months.

## Is there a charge for the vaccine for children?

No. The vaccine is free.

## Besides protecting against COVID-19, are there other reasons those aged 12 to 15 should be vaccinated?

Even children with minimal symptoms or no symptoms may pass the disease to others at greater risk of severe illness. About 25% of the US population are children; until 70% of the entire population is immune, the pandemic will continue, and our everyday lives will not 'return to normal.'

## Are COVID vaccines effective in people aged 12 to 15?

The Pfizer vaccine was shown to be extraordinarily effective in preventing disease. Additionally, the immune response to the vaccine was strong.

## Are side effects from the vaccine different or stronger for people aged 12 to 15 since they have a more robust immune system?

The side effects appear to be identical to those seen with adults who receive the vaccine.

## Can children have an allergic reaction to the vaccine?

Immediate side effects such as hives or other allergic reactions are uncommon. A 15-minute observation period is required for everyone receiving the vaccine, regardless of age. Those with a history of allergic reactions are required to stay for 30 minutes after vaccination for observation. Pediatric clinicians will be on-site to address any immediate reactions that occur.

## If side effects appear after the COVID-19 vaccination is administered, what can I use to treat them?

Side effects such as pain at the administration site, fever, chills may be treated with acetaminophen or ibuprofen should they occur. We do not recommend using these treatments before the vaccine is administered.

## Is one vaccine type better than any of the others for people aged 12 to 15?

Data has only been released at this time for the Pfizer vaccine, and it will be the only vaccine available in the coming weeks. The COVID-19 vaccines by Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are being studied in this age group, but we don't yet have data comparing their effectiveness to the Pfizer vaccine.

## How can parents/guardians help those age 12 to 15 who are curious about vaccination?

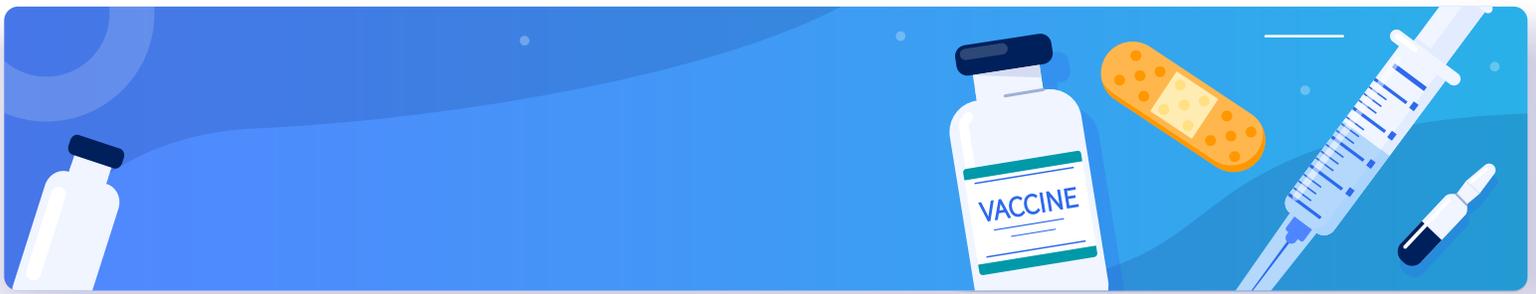
Visit [conehealth.com/vaccine](https://www.conehealth.com/vaccine) for more information. Much information is available regarding the vaccines, and we strongly encourage parents to use factual, medical sources, including your primary care provider or pediatrician.

## Does vaccination of those age 12 to 15 protect against variants of COVID-19?

We're still learning about how the vaccine protects against all the new variants. Initial studies looking at some of the variants show that the vaccine is very effective in preventing both mild and severe disease.

## Are there any 12- to 15-year-olds who shouldn't get the vaccine? Are there any people in this age group who should talk to a pediatrician before being vaccinated?

There are very few kids who shouldn't get the vaccine. Those who have COVID-19 should wait until they are out of the isolation period. Those who have received the monoclonal antibody (rare for kids and teens) should wait 90 days. If they have an anaphylactic reaction to the first dose, they should talk to their pediatrician before getting the second dose. Teens who are immunocompromised or have autoimmune diseases can still safely get the vaccine.



### **Will COVID-19 affect a younger person's fertility in the future?**

Definitely not. The COVID-19 vaccine contains only mRNA and no live virus or DNA. The vaccine does not get incorporated into DNA or affect future offspring in any way.

### **If a person age 12 to 15 already had COVID-19, should they get the vaccine?**

Yes. We have seen both children and adults who have already had the virus get reinfected with COVID-19, especially with new variants. The vaccine offers extra protection even for those who have already had COVID-19.

### **Is a parent/guardian consent required for someone age 12 to 15 to receive the vaccine at Cone Health?**

Following state law and guidance, Cone Health will not require parental or guardian consent for vaccination of those age 12-15 at its vaccine clinics. When vaccinating at schools, Cone Health will honor school system policies requiring parental/guardian consent for vaccination of students from the hosting school.

### **Is a parent or guardian required to accompany a person age 12 to 15 for a vaccination appointment with Cone Health?**

Parents or guardians are welcome, but not required.

### **Is any documentation required when a person age 12 to 15 arrives for vaccination?**

No.

### **Is the second dose of vaccines important for those age 12 to 15?**

Yes. To get the full protection of the vaccine, two doses are required.

### **Can a person age 12 to 15 take their normal medications before the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Yes. Continue to take prescribed medications as directed.

### **Should those 12 to 15 stay home from school after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Teens can go back to school or work after getting the vaccine. Some people experience side effects (fever, feeling achy or tired) after the vaccine and might choose to stay home for a short period of time.

### **Does a person age 12 to 15 still need to wear a mask after getting the COVID-19 vaccine?**

This guidance is going to change as the number of COVID-19 cases changes over time. Right now, vaccinated adolescents, just like adults, do not need to wear a mask outside (unless it's a crowded outdoor event). Everyone should still wear a mask at indoor public places or when gathering with unvaccinated people indoors.

### **Should I be worried about how quickly these vaccines were created?**

Despite the speed with which the approved COVID-19 vaccines have been developed, they have been carefully studied in the same manner as other vaccines have been in the past or they would not have been approved for emergency use. The data regarding safety and effectiveness has been reviewed by the FDA and CDC independently from those who conducted the studies.

### **Will the vaccine be administered by clinicians who regularly work with children?**

Pediatric clinicians will support this effort, and our vaccination sites will provide a separate area for the vaccination of children.