WHAT PARENTS AND GUARDIANS SHOULD KNOW

Which vaccines can my child get?
Children ages 6 months and older can get a Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for children have the same active ingredients but in a smaller dose than the vaccines for adolescents and adults. Unlike many medications, vaccine dosages are based on the child’s age on the day of vaccination and not their size or weight.

Why should my child get vaccinated?
- Some children can get very sick from COVID-19, and may need to be hospitalized. In rare cases, they may die. **By getting vaccinated, your child will have protection against severe illness** and reduce the chances of spreading the virus to other, possibly more vulnerable people.

- Medical experts are learning about the effects of COVID-19 in children such as multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C). MIS-C can cause parts of the body to become inflamed including the heart, lungs, brain, and other organs. The best thing you can do to **prevent MIS-C and protect your child against COVID-19** is to get them vaccinated. Learn more about MIS-C at [www.dhs.wi.gov/disease/mis-c.htm](http://www.dhs.wi.gov/disease/mis-c.htm).

- After having COVID-19, some children develop long COVID. Long COVID can cause children to experience new, returning, or ongoing symptoms such as brain fog and chronic fatigue. One of the best ways to protect your child from **the long-term effects of COVID-19** is to get them vaccinated.

- **Children and adults that are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines do not have to quarantine** after exposure to someone with COVID-19, but should take additional steps to protect themselves and others. Visit [www.dhs.wi.gov/covid-19/close-contacts.htm](http://www.dhs.wi.gov/covid-19/close-contacts.htm) for next steps after exposure.

Are the vaccines safe for my child?
The COVID-19 vaccines for children have gone through the same **safety tests** and met the same standards as all other vaccines authorized in the United States. **Millions of children have gotten the COVID-19 vaccine safely.** Very few people have had any severe side effects. In fact, people are more likely to have serious long-term effects from getting sick from COVID-19. If you have questions about vaccine safety, connect with a doctor. For free, confidential support finding health care and community resources near you, dial 211.

How do the vaccines work?
The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are mRNA vaccines. The mRNA in the vaccine gives your cells instructions on how to make coronavirus spike proteins. Those proteins help your immune system produce specific antibodies that defend against COVID-19. So if the real virus enters your body, your immune system can recognize it and fight it off to help prevent you from getting sick. **mRNA vaccines do not put a weakened or inactivated virus into your body. They cannot give someone COVID-19.** Your cells break down and get rid of the mRNA as soon as it is finished using the instructions. The vaccine does not affect or interact with your DNA in any way. **Vaccines give us protection against COVID-19 without ever having to risk getting hospitalized or dying from COVID-19.**
Where can my child get vaccinated?

Children who are moderately or severely immunocompromised (for example, due to cancer treatment, HIV infection, medical treatments, or a medical condition like DiGeorge syndrome) have specific COVID-19 vaccine primary series and booster recommendations. See www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-immuno.htm

What else should I know about the COVID-19 vaccine?

Some people have temporary side effects after vaccination such as pain or swelling on the arm where they got the vaccine. This is normal and means the body is building up protection against COVID-19.

No vaccine is 100% effective, so we expect some people who are up to date with their vaccines to get COVID-19. Even with COVID-19 variants circulating, the COVID-19 vaccines are extremely effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalization, and death caused by COVID-19.

Where can my child get vaccinated?

Check Vaccines.gov, www.dhs.wi.gov/covid-19/vaccine-get.htm, or call 211 to learn where you child can get vaccinated. Remember the vaccine is free for everyone. You do not need an ID or health insurance to get it.

Where can I learn more?

Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines and what you can expect when getting your child vaccinated at: www.dhs.wi.gov/covid-19/vaccine.htm.