

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES FOR YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Why should young, healthy people get the vaccine? Aren't they less likely to get severely ill from COVID-19?

Everyone age 12 and above should get vaccinated. COVID-19 still carries risks for youth and young adults. More than 3 million children have had COVID-19 in the U.S., thousands have been hospitalized and more than 260 have died. In addition, stopping a pandemic requires all of us to do our part. The vaccine is an important tool to help us get back to normal. The more people who get the vaccine, the closer we can get to reaching herd immunity. Herd immunity is when most people are immune to a disease, and it's what will finally end this pandemic.

Is it safe for young women to get a COVID-19 vaccine if they would like to have a baby one day?

Yes. If you are trying to become pregnant now or want to get pregnant in the future, you can get a COVID-19 vaccine. Based on how the COVID-19 vaccines work in the body, medical researchers do not think that the vaccines are a risk for people who are pregnant or want to become pregnant. There is no evidence that a COVID-19 vaccination causes any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta; or that fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines.

Do vaccinated people still have to quarantine after a COVID-19 exposure?

If someone is fully vaccinated and is exposed, they do not need to quarantine if the COVID-19 exposure was at least 14 days after their vaccination series was fully completed and they do not currently have any symptoms of COVID-19. Check with your employer or school as they might have different quarantine guidance.

Do 12- to 17-year-olds need parental consent to get vaccinated?

Yes, parent or guardian consent is needed for COVID-19 vaccination of 12- to 17-year-olds, except under certain circumstances (minor living apart or minor who has given birth or been married). Parents or guardians can go to the vaccine appointment with their child to learn about the COVID-19 vaccine and provide consent for the child to receive the vaccine. If a parent/guardian is not able to go with the child to get their vaccine, ask the provider about their consent process - many will allow a parent or guardian to sign it in advance.

Which vaccine should young adults get?

The Pfizer/BioNTech is the only vaccine currently authorized for youth age 12+. All three vaccines are approved safe for those 18 and older, and the data between the COVID-19 vaccines look very similar.

When should eligible young adults get the vaccine?

As soon as possible. Talk to your primary care professional if you have questions about the best timing for the vaccine.

How do we know the COVID-19 vaccines are safe?

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. COVID-19 vaccines were evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials and the FDA's rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support emergency use authorization (EUA). The clinical trials included individuals age 12+. Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines, and these vaccines will continue to undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. This monitoring includes using both established and new safety monitoring systems to make sure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe.

Can a COVID-19 vaccine make people sick with COVID-19?

No. None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus that causes COVID-19 so a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

Do people who had the virus still need to get the vaccine?

People who had COVID-19 should get the vaccine after they have recovered or have finished their quarantine. We do not know how long antibodies last after infection and a small number of people have had more severe second bouts of infection. The vaccine trials included people who were previously infected with COVID-19, and the vaccine was found to be safe.

This message is brought to you by the Arrowhead Regional Public Health and Tribal Health Departments, including Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis County Public Health together with the Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Public Health.

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