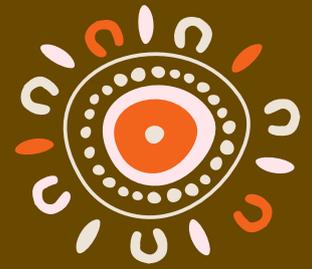


COVID-19 vaccines for children



BOOK OR WALK IN

Why should children be vaccinated against COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a virus that can cause serious illness and death, as well as long term health issues. It can spread very easily between people and sometimes people have few or no symptoms, making it difficult to know you are infected before you pass it to others.

Even though COVID-19 infection in children is often milder than in adults, there are strong reasons to support vaccinating children. Vaccination:

- Gives the immune system a helping hand. By vaccinating your child, you're helping to protect them from serious illness from COVID-19 and possible long-term effects.
- Helps to protect friends, family, Elders and the community, including vulnerable people of all ages, by helping to reduce transmission.
- Helps to keep children in school and participating in social activities that are important for their learning and development.

Can all children aged 5 years and over get vaccinated against COVID-19?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all children aged 5 to 11 years. Some children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, have an increased risk from COVID-19.

Millions of children around the world have been safely vaccinated against COVID-19 already. Evidence shows vaccination offers excellent protection against serious illness from COVID-19 in children and helps keep your family safe and well.

Can all children aged 6 months to under 5 years get vaccinated against COVID-19?

No. COVID-19 vaccination is only recommended for children aged 6 months to under 5 years who are:

- severely immunocompromised
- have a disability
- have complex and/or multiple health conditions which increase their risk of severe COVID-19.

If you have a child in one of the above high risk categories, you should consult with your GP or Aboriginal Medical Service and, if eligible, seek COVID-19 vaccination as soon as you are able to secure an appointment.

Vaccination is not currently recommended for children aged 6 months to under 5 years who are not in the above risk categories for severe COVID-19. This is because these children have a very low likelihood of severe illness from COVID-19.

Do children get the same vaccines and doses as adults?

No. Children will receive 2 doses of the same vaccine, given 8 weeks apart. Children who are severely immunocompromised will receive 3 doses.

6 months to under 5 years:

- Moderna (Spikevax) vaccine is approved for use in children aged 6 months to under 5 years with severe immunocompromise, disability, and those who have complex and/or multiple health conditions which increase the risk of severe COVID-19.

The dose is around 1/2 of the dose for children aged 6 to 11 years old.

5 to 11 years:

- Pfizer (Comirnaty) children's vaccine is approved for use in children aged 5 to 11 years.

The dose is around 1/3 of the dose for people aged 12 years and older.

A smaller dose is used for this age group as it can achieve the same high level of protection in children as the dose given to people aged 12 years and older.

or

- Moderna (Spikevax) vaccine is approved for use in children aged 6 to 11.

The dose is around 1/2 of the dose for people aged 12 years and older.

Are the side effects for children the same as those for adults?

Yes. Children can experience the same common side effects as adults after getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

These side effects are generally mild and go away after a day or two and may include:

- Headache
- Fever and chills
- Fatigue / tiredness
- Muscle pain and a sore arm at the injection site

Minor side effects are normal and show that the immune system is responding to the vaccine. More serious side effects from the vaccines are very rare, with the risk of those same side effects much higher from catching COVID-19 itself. If side effects persist or you are concerned, speak to your GP or Aboriginal Health Service.

Does the risk of a serious side effect mean I shouldn't get my child vaccinated?

No. All the COVID-19 vaccines used in Australia are safe and have been rigorously tested and assessed by Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) before being approved and recommended for use.

Millions of children aged 5-11 years across the world have safely received a COVID-19 vaccine to date.

Will COVID-19 vaccination affect my child's growth, development, or future fertility?

No. There is no evidence that a COVID-19 vaccine can affect a child's growth and development. Long-term effects from COVID-19 can have lasting impacts on health and wellbeing. The risk of complications from catching the virus are higher than the usually mild side-effects of vaccination.

Should my child be vaccinated if they have already had COVID-19?

Yes. Children aged 5 to 11 years who have previously had COVID-19 can receive the vaccine once they have recovered from their illness. The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommends waiting 3 months after a confirmed COVID-19 infection before your child gets vaccinated. Get your vaccination as soon as possible after 3 months to strengthen your child's protection.

Can my child be vaccinated without my consent?

No. Children aged 5–11 years require a parent or legal guardian to give consent to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Consent is required when booking, and again at the appointment. If the parent or guardian cannot attend the appointment with the child, they can nominate another adult to attend the appointment in their place when completing the online consent during the booking process.

Details of the nominated accompanying adult must be provided during booking so that their identity and permission to give consent by proxy can be verified on the day of the appointment.

For more information on consent, visit: nsw.gov.au.

Is COVID-19 vaccination mandatory for children (including for school and sports)?

No. It is not mandatory, but it is highly recommended. The Department of Education also strongly recommends that all eligible students (and their families) who are 5 years and older get vaccinated.

There is no requirement for children to have a COVID-19 vaccine to participate in school or community sports activities.

Can my child have a booster vaccination?

Yes (if they have complex health conditions). People aged 12 to 15 years with complex health conditions are recommended to get a booster vaccination. This includes those who:

- are severely immunocompromised.
- have a disability with significant or complex health needs.
- have complex and/or multiple health conditions that increase the risk of severe COVID-19.

Will children be vaccinated against COVID-19 at school?

No. Make a booking for your child's COVID-19 vaccine through your GP, local pharmacy or Aboriginal Medical Service. Many places are also offering walk-ins, meaning you do not have to book.

Get your children vaccinated against COVID-19 now

For more information, visit nsw.gov.au
or call the National Coronavirus Helpline on **1800 020 080** and press **Option 5**.

You can also SMS “**Hey EVA**” to **0481 611 382**.

These messages are received by the National Coronavirus Helpline.
You will receive a call back from a trained agent who will help you find a COVID-19 vaccine appointment based on your individual needs.

This includes finding places where no appointment is needed (walk ins).