

Below are answers to commonly asked questions regarding youth COVID-19 immunizations. For additional information visit yuba.org or call 530-812-3938

Youth COVID-19 Immunizations FAQ's

Q: When and where can I sign up to get my child vaccinated?

A: You can book an appointment for your child 12 and up through [My Turn](#) or by calling California's COVID-19 Hotline at 1-833-422-4255. You can also call your family doctor, local community health clinic, or public health office for more information.

Q: Do the providers need parental consent before administering COVID-19 vaccine to a minor?

A: Yes. Vaccine providers must obtain consent from a parent, legal guardian, or other adult having legal custody before vaccinating a minor. But there are some exceptions:

- [Emancipated minors](#) do not need the consent of a parent or guardian to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Providers may accept written consent from a parent or legal guardian of an unaccompanied minor.
- If a provider has a written authorization for general medical care of a minor on file, a separate consent from a parent or guardian is not required. However, the provider may still request it.

Families should check with their vaccine provider on acceptable forms of consent.

Q: Are vaccines safe for our youth ages 12 to 15?

A: Clinical trials of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine were found to be safe and effective in protecting against severe illness, hospitalization, and death in those aged 12-15.

Pfizer's phase three clinical trial enrolled [2,260 adolescents 12 to 15 years of age](#) in the United States and demonstrated 100% efficacy.

Q: Why should I vaccinate my child?

A: Cases in children are increasing. The [American Academy of Pediatrics PDF](#) reports that youth now account for 22% of new COVID-19 cases in the U.S. This time last year it was only around 3%. It is important to get young people vaccinated to prevent new cases from increasing further. The more vaccinations, the more we stop the spread of highly contagious coronavirus variants and shrink the pool of people vulnerable to COVID-19. By getting our 12 to 15-year-olds vaccinated, families can be safer as we get back to doing the things we love.

Q: My child has had reactions to other vaccines – should they still get the vaccine?

A: Yes, unless they have had anaphylactic type reactions to components of the Pfizer vaccine. Allergic reactions to the COVID-19 vaccine are rare and very few people have had severe adverse reactions. If your child has allergic reactions to the flu vaccine or other severe allergies, you should report that to their health providers in advance of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine is safe, effective, and important to receive in order to overcome this pandemic.

Q: Is there an increased vaccination risk to children who have pre-existing conditions like asthma?

A: Youth aged 12 to 15 can still receive the COVID-19 vaccine even if they have underlying health conditions. If you have specific questions about a condition, please talk to your healthcare provider, local community clinic, or public health office.



Q: Will my child be required to get vaccinated before returning to in-person schooling, especially in the fall?

A: While vaccination isn't currently required to return to in-person learning, the state's objective is to get as many of our 2.1 million 12 to 15-year-olds vaccinated prior to the new fall term. By getting our young people vaccinated soon, we can take comfort in knowing those over age 12 are protected against highly contagious coronavirus variants and COVID-19, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Q: Will my child be required to get vaccinated before they can play recreational or school sports? What about returning to the band or theater or rejoining clubs?

A: While vaccination isn't currently required to play sports, this is the time for our youth to join their teammates and friends in getting vaccinated so they can protect themselves and each other against COVID-19. The state's [Industry guidance](#) provides guidelines to support a safe environment for outdoor and indoor youth sports activities. The resumption of other group activities such as band, theater, and clubs will be coordinated by schools in concert with future state guidelines. Meanwhile, getting our young people vaccinated when they are eligible can help them return to the things they love sooner.

Q: Why is the vaccine only for adolescents 12 and over? When do you expect vaccines to be available for younger children?

A: Vaccine trials and approvals commonly begin with older, more vulnerable populations then extend to younger ages. Adolescents were the next group to be prioritized because they are most similar to adults and are more likely than younger kids to spread the virus and become seriously ill. This approach balances the need for safety and speed, while protecting our children throughout vaccine development. Both Pfizer and Moderna have ongoing clinical trials in people younger than 12. Depending on the outcome of those trials, authorization for this next age group could happen later this year. Johnson & Johnson is currently in clinical trials for the 12-17 age group.