

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine For Children, 5-11 years

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is an mRNA vaccine. mRNA refers to genetic material from the virus that causes COVID-19. This genetic material is in the vaccine. The vaccine teaches the immune system how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines do not contain the actual infectious SARS-CoV-2 virus, so the vaccine cannot give your child COVID-19. This mRNA vaccine does not affect your child's DNA.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children ages 5 through 11 has the same active ingredients as the vaccine given to adults and adolescents. All COVID-19 vaccine ingredients are safe. Nearly all of the ingredients in COVID-19 vaccines are ingredients found in many foods – fats, sugars, and salts. There is no evidence that any of the COVID-19 vaccines cause fertility problems.

Children ages 5 through 11 years receive an age-appropriate dose specifically created for children and not for adults and adolescents. The vaccine's safety in approximately 3,100 children ages 5 through 11 who received the vaccine had no serious side effects in an ongoing study. The vaccine was found to be 90.7% effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 in children ages 5 through 11.

Your child may have some side effects, which are normal signs that their body is building protection. These side effects are usually temporary and generally clear up within 48 hours. It may affect a child's ability to do daily activities for 1- 2 days. Some children have no side effects.

- Pain, redness, and swelling at injection site, upper arm
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Tiredness
- Chills and fever

Helpful Tips

Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the injection site.

Encourage plenty of fluids- water and juices.

Ask your child's doctor for advice on using a non-aspirin pain reliever and other steps you can take at home to comfort your child. In general, Aspirin is not recommended for use in children and adolescents less than 18 years of age.

Your child will need a second shot of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine three weeks after their first shot. People are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

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