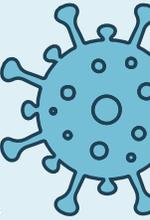




# Why vaccinate your child against COVID-19?



Vaccination is an important tool to help protect children from the COVID-19 virus.

May 2023

It is likely children will be exposed to COVID-19 at some point. The COVID-19 vaccine help prevent kids from getting severely ill, and protects them from long-term complications or even death. Just like adults, children and teens can:

**Get very sick from COVID-19.**

**Have both short- and long-term health problems.**

**Spread COVID-19 to others, including at home and school.**



**Almost half of children younger than 18 years old hospitalized with COVID-19 have no underlying conditions.** Children who have underlying medical conditions or have a weakened immune system are more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19. These underlying medical conditions include:

- Asthma or chronic lung disease
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Sickle cell disease

## Vaccination Helps Prevent Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) Associated with COVID-19

Children and teens who get COVID-19 can develop serious complications like multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C). MIS-C is a condition where different body parts become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs. Most kids with MIS-C require hospitalization to get better.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, thousands of cases of MIS-C have been reported. Most children hospitalized with MIS-C were not vaccinated against COVID-19.



## Children and Teens Can Experience Ongoing Health Problems after COVID-19 Infection



After getting COVID-19 infection, whether mild or severe, children and teens can experience a wide range of new, returning or ongoing health problems. Sometimes called Long COVID, these include physical and mental health complications that may occur four or more weeks after initial infection.

Post-COVID (or Long COVID) symptoms can affect quality of life including:

- Limitations in physical activity.
- Distress about symptoms.
- Mental health challenges.
- Decreased school or daycare attendance.
- Missed opportunities for participation in sports, play dates or other activities.

## COVID-19 Vaccines Are Safe

Vaccines in the U.S. go through strict safety testing. Ongoing safety monitoring shows that COVID-19 vaccination continues to be safe for children and that the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh known and potential risks.

Some have expressed worries about myocarditis following vaccination, but the chances of that happening are much higher if a child gets COVID-19.



For more information about vaccinating children against COVID-19, visit [Michigan.gov/KidsCOVIDVaccine](https://Michigan.gov/KidsCOVIDVaccine) or [CDC.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html](https://CDC.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html).