

COVID-19 Vaccines

Decision aid for parents and young people aged 12-15 years

Version 3.0 - 17th August 2021



COVID-19
VACCINE
Public Health
Advice

Children and young people aged 12-15 years are now being offered COVID-19 vaccines.

The vaccines offered are:

- Comirnaty® vaccine (Pfizer/BioNTech). This is given as two doses 21-28 days apart or
- Spikevax® vaccine (Moderna). This is given as two doses 28 days apart.

Comirnaty® and Spikevax® are both mRNA vaccines. Both vaccines are approved by the European Medicines Agency and recommended by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee for children and young people of this age group.

Vaccination is recommended for children and young people who have health conditions that put them at high risk of severe COVID-19 disease. Children and young people who are living with a child or adult who is at risk of severe COVID-19 are also recommended to get the vaccine to protect them.

Most children and young people usually only have mild symptoms of COVID-19 or may have no symptoms at all, but mild symptoms still mean they can't go to school and other activities.

Read this document to help you and your child decide whether they should be vaccinated against COVID-19.

What are my options?

- You can decide to have your child vaccinated against COVID-19 now or
- You can decide not to have your child vaccinated or to wait until there is more information available.

Benefits of the vaccine	Risks of the vaccine
<p>Protection for children and young people who have health conditions that put them at high risk of severe COVID-19. 7 in 10 children admitted to hospital with COVID-19 have some other underlying conditions.</p> <p>The risk of a child being hospitalised because of COVID-19 is low, and the risk of any child needing intensive care treatment is very low.</p> <p>Sometimes symptoms connected to COVID-19 can continue for some weeks or months ("long COVID").</p>	<p>Short term side effects like a sore arm, fever or tiredness.</p> <p>About 1 in 100,000 people might have a severe side effect, like an allergic reaction to the vaccine.</p> <p>Very rarely some people develop inflammation of the heart (myocarditis) and the outer lining of the heart (pericarditis) after vaccination. It has been reported in about 1 in 100,000 girls given second doses and in about 1 in 16,000 boys given second doses in those aged 12-17.</p>

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Benefits of the vaccine	Risks of the vaccine
<p>Data from the UK suggests 5 in every 1,000 children aged 12-16 may experience "long COVID" after infection.</p> <p>May help prevent the spread of COVID-19 to others. This is especially important if children and young people are living with a child or an adult who is at risk of severe COVID-19 e.g. a younger child with complex medical needs, or an immunocompromised adult.</p> <p>Protection from the extremely rare complication of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in children. The condition causes pneumonia, inflammation of the heart and difficulty breathing and it can cause death. Most of the cases occurred in male children aged 1-14.</p>	<p>Most people recover from myocarditis and pericarditis but they may need treatment in hospital.</p> <p>We don't yet have information about longer term effects of COVID-19 vaccines in children and young people.</p>
Have the vaccine now	Don't have the vaccine or wait
Consider this option if:	
<p>Your child has an underlying medical condition that puts them at high risk of severe COVID-19.</p> <p>Your child lives with a child or an adult who is at high risk of severe COVID-19. For example a younger child with complex medical needs, or an immunocompromised adult.</p> <p>You want to protect your child against the very rare possibility of severe COVID-19, multisystem inflammatory syndrome or "long COVID".</p>	<p>You do not want to risk the very rare side effect of myocarditis and pericarditis from vaccination.</p> <p>You want to wait for more information to become available about the risk of multisystem inflammatory syndrome and of COVID-19 in children and young people.</p> <p>You want to wait for more information to be available about the longer term effects of the vaccines in children and young people.</p>

More Information

Visit the HSE website for more information <https://bit.ly/HSE1215>

You should also read the HSE leaflet "Important Information for parents and guardians" available from <https://bit.ly/C19Leaflets>

Read the frequently asked questions for parents of children and young people on <https://bit.ly/NIO1215>

To make an appointment for COVID-19 vaccination for you child, please visit: <https://vaccine.hse.ie/>