


# COVID-19 VACCINATION



for children  
aged 5-11  
years old

Children aged 5  
years and older are  
now eligible for a  
COVID-19 vaccine.




Although COVID-19 in children is milder than in adults, there is strong evidence that vaccination against COVID-19 can provide an extra protection for children against serious illness from COVID-19. It can also reduce the spread of the virus to protect family, friends and other vulnerable people in community.

Children will receive two doses of the approved Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccine, eight weeks apart. The children's dose consists of a smaller amount of the vaccine that what adults receive. Children can experience the same common side effects as adults after getting a COVID-19 vaccine: sore arm at injection site, headache, fever and tiredness.



## Vaccination is important for ...

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
  - children in remote communities
  - children with specified medical conditions that increase their risk of severe COVID-19
  - children on the National Disability Insurance Service (NDIS) and their parents and carers.
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Children aged 5 – 11 years require a parent or legal guardian's consent to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

For more information call 13 COVID (13 42 68)  
or visit [www.makethechoice.com.au](http://www.makethechoice.com.au)



## What is the risk to children from COVID-19?

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**Children tend to have less severe cases of COVID-19 than adults and in most cases the virus causes mild or moderate symptoms in kids, such as a fever and cough.**

Serious illness remains extremely rare but some children still do need to go to hospital for severe COVID-19 symptoms. Some children have died of COVID-19.

The large number of Omicron infections in the community mean more children are ending up in hospital than with previous COVID-19 variants.

The impact of 'long COVID' on kids is still unknown, but some children will continue to have symptoms of COVID-19 weeks and months after their infection.

With long COVID, kids might get symptoms of fatigue and difficulty thinking (i.e. brain fog) and have trouble keeping up with school work or getting out of bed in the morning.



## Why vaccinate children if they don't get very sick?

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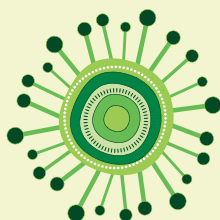
**COVID-19 is a serious illness that can affect everyone in our community. While most children tend to experience only a mild illness when compared to adults, severe illness and rare long-term complications of COVID-19 are possible.**

Risk factors for severe COVID-19 disease in children include obesity, diabetes, immunosuppressive conditions, heart and lung diseases, and other complex chronic illnesses.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and individuals from remote communities may also be at an elevated risk from COVID-19 infection. By having your child vaccinated against COVID-19 you are protecting them from getting seriously ill if they were to get infected with the virus.

Vaccination of children will also have a positive impact on general child health and wellbeing by helping reduce disruption to their education and learning, access to usual health care needs, lessening the pandemic's impact on sports and other extra-curricular activities, and opportunities for socialising.

A vaccinated child is also less likely to transmit the virus to other family members, friends, and members of the community who are at risk of becoming very unwell.





## Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for kids?



Reactions from the COVID-19 vaccines for children aged 5-11 are similar to those faced by adults and are most often mild with no lasting effect.

Minor side effects are normal and show that the immune system is responding to the vaccine. Very few children will have side effects that need medical attention.

Children may notice pain at the injection site, increased tiredness, and flu-like symptoms such as fever, headaches and chills. These side effects often clear up within 48 hours.

With all vaccines, including the COVID-19 vaccine, there is a rare risk of a severe allergic reaction, like anaphylaxis.

The clinical trial data for COVID-19 vaccination in children aged 5 years and older shows the Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective, producing a detectable immune response.



## How do I talk to my child about the COVID-19 vaccine?

Start a conversation with your child about COVID-19 and the vaccines. You can tell them how the COVID-19 vaccine works to fight illness in their body and listen to any fears and concerns they might have about being vaccinated.

It is important they understand that getting vaccinated can protect them, their family and their friends from getting very sick.

It may help to explain to your child what they can expect on the day of the appointment. Explain that the doctor or medical professional will ask your child some questions, that your child will receive a needle in their arm, that they'll feel a small prick and their arm might be a little bit sore afterwards.

Reassure your child by telling them it's normal for their arm to be a little bit sore, and it means the medicine is working. If your child seems worried about getting vaccinated, try talking to them more about why they feel this way.



## What should I do if my child develops COVID-19 symptoms?

If your child develops any COVID-19 symptoms, particularly fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath, loss of smell or taste, they should be tested.

Children may also experience other symptoms, such as runny nose, headache, loss of smell, loss of taste, nausea or vomiting, muscle pain, joint pain, fatigue, diarrhoea or a loss of appetite.

Visit your nearest COVID-19 testing centre or use a Rapid Antigen Test to test your child at home.

If you are unsure, or if your child has a sudden onset of any COVID-19 symptoms, you should contact your local doctor or call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) for health advice.

You should keep your child isolated until their symptoms have cleared up, and for at least seven days.

If you think they need to see a doctor, you should go to your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical service. Phone ahead so the clinic can be prepared and protect other patients.

If your child is experiencing trouble breathing, chest pain or if they are dizzy or fainting call 000 or go to the emergency department of your nearest hospital.



## WHERE CAN I GET MY CHILD VACCINATED?

You can get your child vaccinated at most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Services.

Call your local clinic to find out if they are providing the vaccination.

If you need help finding a COVID-19 vaccination appointment for your child call 134 COVID (134 268).

For more information call 13 COVID (13 42 68) or visit [www.makethechoice.com.au](http://www.makethechoice.com.au)