



COVID-19 Vaccines in Children and Adolescents

Committee on Infectious Diseases

Vaccines are safe and effective in protecting individuals and populations against infectious diseases. New vaccines are evaluated by a long-standing, rigorous, and transparent process through the US Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), by which safety and efficacy data are reviewed before authorization and recommendation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends the following related to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine in children and adolescents:

- The AAP recommends COVID-19 vaccination for all children and adolescents 12 years of age and older who do not have contraindications using a COVID-19 vaccine authorized for use for their age.
- Any COVID-19 vaccine authorized through Emergency Use Authorization by the US Food and Drug Administration, recommended by the CDC, and appropriate by age and health status can be used for COVID-19 vaccination in children and adolescents.
- Given the importance of routine vaccination and the need for rapid uptake of COVID-19 vaccines, the AAP supports coadministration of routine childhood and adolescent immunizations with COVID-19 vaccines (or vaccination in the days before or after) for children and adolescents who are behind on or due for immunizations (based on the CDC and AAP Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule) and/or at increased risk from vaccine-preventable diseases.

COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2020–2021

Yvonne A. Maldonado, MD, FAAP, Chairperson
Sean T. O’Leary, MD, MPH, FAAP, Vice Chairperson
Ritu Banerjee, MD, PhD, FAAP
James D. Campbell, MD, MS, FAAP

This document is copyrighted and is property of the American Academy of Pediatrics and its Board of Directors. All authors have filed conflict of interest statements with the American Academy of Pediatrics. Any conflicts have been resolved through a process approved by the Board of Directors. The American Academy of Pediatrics has neither solicited nor accepted any commercial involvement in the development of the content of this publication.

Policy statements from the American Academy of Pediatrics benefit from expertise and resources of liaisons and internal (AAP) and external reviewers. However, policy statements from the American Academy of Pediatrics may not reflect the views of the liaisons or the organizations or government agencies that they represent.

The guidance in this statement does not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or serve as a standard of medical care. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate.

All policy statements from the American Academy of Pediatrics automatically expire 5 years after publication unless reaffirmed, revised, or retired at or before that time.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2021-052336>

PEDIATRICS (ISSN Numbers: Print, 0031-4005; Online, 1098-4275).
Copyright © 2021 by the American Academy of Pediatrics

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE: The authors have indicated they have no financial relationships relevant to this article to disclose.

FUNDING: No external funding.

POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST: The authors have indicated they have no potential conflicts of interest to disclose.

To cite: Committee on Infectious Diseases. COVID-19 Vaccines in Children and Adolescents. *Pediatrics*. 2021;148(2):e2021052336

Mary T. Caserta, MD, FAAP
Jeffrey S. Gerber, MD, PhD, FAAP
Athena P. Kourtis, MD, PhD,
MPH, FAAP
Ruth Lynfield, MD, FAAP, *Red Book*
Associate Editor
Flor M. Munoz, MD, MSc, FAAP
Dawn Nolt, MD, MPH, FAAP
Adam J. Ratner, MD, MPH, FAAP
Samir S. Shah, MD, MSCE, FAAP
William J. Steinbach, MD, FAAP
Kenneth M. Zangwill, MD, FAAP
Theoklis E. Zaoutis, MD, MSCE, FAAP

EX OFFICIO

David W. Kimberlin, MD, FAAP,
Red Book Editor
Elizabeth D. Barnett MD, FAAP,
Red Book Associate Editor
Mark H. Sawyer, MD, FAAP,
Red Book Associate Editor
Henry H. Bernstein, DO, MHCM,
FAAP, *Red Book* Online Associate
Editor
H. Cody Meissner, MD, FAAP, Visual
Red Book Associate Editor

LIAISONS

Amanda C. Cohn, MD, FAAP –
*Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention*
Karen M. Farizo, MD – *US Food and
Drug Administration*
Natasha B. Halasa, MD, MPH, FAAP –
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society
David Kim, MD – *US Department of
Health and Human Services Office of
Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS
Policy*
Eduardo López Medina, MD, MSc –
*Sociedad Latinoamericana de
Infectologia Pediatrca*
Dene Moore, MD, FAAP –
*American Academy of
Family Physicians*
Scot B. Moore, MD, FAAP –
*Committee on Practice Ambulatory
Medicine*
Lakshmi Panagiotakopoulos, MD,
MPH, FAAP – *Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention*
Laura Sauv , MD, FCPS – *Canadian
Paediatric Society*

Neil S. Silverman, MD – *American
College of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists*
Jeffrey R. Starke, MD, FAAP –
American Thoracic Society
Kay M. Tomashek, MD, MPH, DTM –
National Institutes of Health

STAFF

Jennifer M. Frantz, MPH

ABBREVIATIONS

AAP: American Academy of
Pediatrics
CDC: Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention
COVID-19: coronavirus disease
2019