



# 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 Pediatrica*  
Denee Moore, MD, FAAFP –  
*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 e, 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