



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 5 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 or approved (through a Biologics License Application) 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 (primary series, additional doses, or booster doses) according to CDC guidelines for children and adolescents.
- Children with previous infection or disease with SARS-CoV-2 should receive COVID-19 vaccination, according to CDC guidelines.
- 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/AAP Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule; <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/child-adolescent.html>) and/or at increased risk from vaccine-preventable diseases. Pediatricians are encouraged to promote

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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.

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vaccination through ongoing, proactive messaging (ie, reminder recall, vaccine appointment/clinics), and to use existing patient visits as an opportunity to promote and provide COVID-19 vaccines.

- Pediatricians' role in promoting vaccination among their patient population and in their community is critical, especially among those at highest risk for severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19, as well as their household contacts. Parents, caregivers, and patients might have questions that need to be addressed related to the vaccine. Pediatricians play an essential role in helping answer these questions, as well as in reducing existing disparities and addressing any barriers to accessing COVID-19 vaccine in their community.
- For additional guidance on the administration of COVID-19 vaccines, storage and handling, reporting, and patient education for each specific vaccine, visit: COVID-19 Vaccination Clinical and Professional Resources (CDC; <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>) and COVID-19 Vaccine for Children (aap.org; <https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/covid-19-vaccine-for-children/>).

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ABBREVIATIONS

AAP: American Academy of
Pediatrics

CDC: Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention COVID-19,
coronavirus disease 2019