The Covid-19 Vaccine and Your Teenager

Important information and frequently asked questions for parents and teenagers

WHY SHOULD MY TEENAGER GET VACCINATED?
If kids don’t get that sick from COVID-19, do they need to get vaccinated?
Yes. As of Jan 28, 2021, in the US, nearly 2.82 million children have tested positive for Covid-19 with over 140,000 new child Covid-19 cases reported the last week of January. Currently, children are being infected with Covid-19 at basically the same rate as adults.

My teenager has already had COVID-19. Do they still need the vaccine?
Yes, those eligible should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had Covid-19. Experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from Covid-19. Even if you have already recovered, it is possible—although rare—that you could be infected with the virus that causes Covid-19 again. Getting vaccinated is a safer way to build protection than getting infected.

What about children younger than 16?
The vaccine is currently only available to individuals 16 and older but we expect children as young as 12 will have access to it soon. Pfizer has asked the FDA to expand its authorization of their Covid-19 vaccine to include children as young as 12 years old. Clinical trials have shown extraordinary success in preventing illness among 12-15 year old youth.

COVID-19 VACCINE SAFETY
How do I know the vaccine is safe for my teenager?
Over 66 million individuals in the U.S. have been fully vaccinated. We now have extensive data, including the research from the Pfizer clinical studies, to show the vaccine to be safe and effective in teenagers.

Are Covid-19 vaccines unsafe because they were developed and approved quickly?
No. Things have moved faster than normal, but scientists have done everything correctly. The FDA was able to approve an Emergency Use Authorization for Pfizer based on its good safety and efficacy profile.

WHERE CAN MY ELIGIBLE TEENAGER GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE?
Visit https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov to find a vaccine location near you.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION on the Covid-19 vaccines, visit:
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines

Children account for about 25% of the U.S. population. Getting them vaccinated will be critical for achieving herd immunity and ultimately ending this pandemic.