


# COVID-19 VACCINE FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

## WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT SIDE EFFECTS

### VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS ARE NORMAL

After a COVID-19 vaccination, it is typical for children and teens to have some side effects. These side effects are usually mild and should go away in about three days. In addition, they may affect your child or teen’s ability to do daily activities, but they are not considered a signal of sickness. It is also normal for some children and teens to have no side effects from these two-dose pediatric shots.

SYMPTOMS TO WATCH 	
NORMAL SIDE EFFECTS	SIGNIS OF ILLNESS
Fever	Shortness of Breath
Fatigue	Sore Throat
Headache	Loss of Taste
Chills	Loss of Smell
Muscle Pain	Stuffy, Runny Nose
Joint Pain	Cough

### IT IS NORMAL TO HAVE SWELLING, PAIN, OR REDNESS FROM THE SHOT

Ask their healthcare provider for advice on using a non-aspirin pain reliever or warm compress to comfort your child or teen after vaccination. Do not use a pain reliever before the shot. After the shot, your child or teen will be watched for 15 minutes to make sure that they do not have a rare allergic reaction.

### IF YOUR CHILD OR TEEN HAS SEVERE SIGNS OF ILLNESS SEEK IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY CARE

If your child or teen has mild to moderate symptoms after their first or second shot contact their healthcare provider for advice on testing and treatment.

### KEEP UP PREVENTION MEASURES FOR TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SECOND SHOT

The immunization process is not complete until two weeks after dose two of the vaccine, this is when children and teens are considered fully vaccinated. If your child or teen comes in close contact with someone that has had COVID-19 before being fully vaccinated, please have them tested and immediately quarantine.

### YOU CANNOT GET COVID FROM A SHOT


An mRNA vaccine contains a harmless piece of the virus. The vaccines work by training the body to recognize and respond to the proteins produced by disease-causing organisms. The vaccine allows our bodies to gain protection from the virus without having to risk being sick.

### PARTICIPATION AFTER VACCINATION

If your child or teen is feeling well enough to attend school or events and activities, and has not been exposed to COVID-19, they can participate. Please follow any policies concerning fever if temperature screening is done.

## GET ANSWERS

ABOUT THE VACCINE



Check out our website or call our hotline for information on COVID-19 symptoms, testing sites and contact tracing.

**PA.GOV/COVID (1-877-724-3258)**