

# THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS NOW RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN AGES 5 AND UP

The FDA has authorized and the CDC now recommends the COVID vaccine for emergency use in children ages 5-11, following a rigorous review of the data.

## YOU'VE PROBABLY GOT A LOT OF QUESTIONS. WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

Our most recent COVID surge was fueled by the highly transmissible Delta variant and had a devastating impact on Louisianans, including children.

### Q: Should kids get a COVID-19 vaccine?

A: Yes. The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect kids from getting infected with COVID-19.

### Q: Are COVID-19 vaccines safe for kids?

A: All studies done show that COVID-19 vaccines are safe for kids. A vaccine goes through intensive testing before people can get it. Millions of U.S. kids have already received their safe and effective vaccine.

### Q: Why should we vaccinate healthy children?

A: Having your child vaccinated against the virus will help prevent them from getting severe COVID-19 disease. Although COVID-19 in children is often milder than in adults, some children can get severe lung infections, become very sick and need hospital care. The shot makes them stronger and better able to fight off the virus if they come in contact with it.

Since the beginning of August, 25% of all new COVID-19 cases in Louisiana were in children. LDH reported 9 pediatric deaths tied to the fourth surge alone. A total of 18 children in Louisiana have died of COVID since the pandemic began.

### Q: Are children at risk of getting COVID-19?

A: According to the FDA, at least 94 children ages 5 to 11 have died of COVID-19 since the pandemic began, and 8,300 have become so sick they needed to be hospitalized. **In fact, COVID was the eighth-leading cause of death in the age group** over the past year, after accidents, cancer, malformations, murder, heart disease, chronic lower respiratory disease, and flu or pneumonia.

### Q: Are there any side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine?

A: Like many vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines can cause mild, short-term side effects, like a sore arm, body aches, headache, a fever, or tiredness for a day or two. These are signs that the immune system is responding to the vaccine and building immunity to the virus.

### Q: What are other serious effects of COVID-19?

A: Some children that had only mild symptoms went on to develop multi-system inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C), a serious condition in which the immune system goes haywire and starts attacking otherwise healthy parts of the body. Children with MIS-C often become severely sick and require hospitalization. MIS-C is most common in children between the ages of 5 and 13. Since July 1 of this year, 107 cases of MIS-C have occurred in Louisiana children. (Nationally, by early October, 5,217 kids had come down with MIS-C, including 2,034 between 6 and 11, according to the CDC.)

### Q: Can kids get the COVID vaccine at the same time as their annual immunizations?

A: Yes. In fact, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) supports kids getting routine immunizations at the same time they get a COVID-19 vaccine, including the flu shot.

Getting your children vaccinated can help protect them against COVID-19, as well as reduce disruptions to in-person learning and activities by helping curb community transmission.

We know parents and families want to make the best decision for their children. And we know that families have questions – that's good! Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider today about the shot and to make an appointment. To find a nearby vaccination location, go to [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov), call Louisiana's COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline at 855-453-0774, or visit [ldh.la.gov/kidsvax](http://ldh.la.gov/kidsvax).