



Expanded Program
on Immunization
Government of Pakistan



World Health
Organization



unicef
for every child



Government of Pakistan
Ministry of National Health Services,
Regulations & Coordination

COVID-19 Paediatric vaccination

FAQs for Parents/ Caregivers & Health Workers



EPI under the guidance of NCOC is coordinating for COVID-19 pediatric vaccination campaign for children 5 to less than 12 years of age. Given below are some Frequently Asked Questions that address/ explain the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination programme for children.



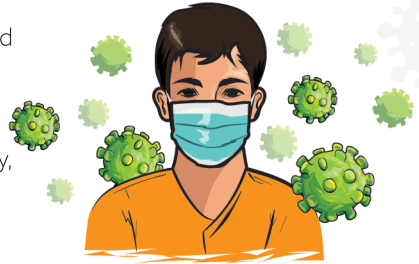
For More Information
Contact



HEALTHLINE
1166

1. Who is at risk from COVID-19 infection?

Coronavirus can affect anyone. Some children and young people are at greater risk including those living with serious conditions such as: Diabetes, cancer, serious heart problems, chest complaint, asthma, kidney or liver disease, lowered immunity, an organ transplant, a neuro disability, Down's syndrome, or epilepsy.



2. Why is it important to get COVID 19 vaccine?

In the early months of the pandemic, you may have heard that children are not likely to get COVID-19. However, kids can get severe cases of COVID-19. In recent months, we have seen an increase in COVID-related hospitalizations. Getting vaccinated is the best way for a child to be protected.

All age groups contribute to transmission of the virus, and vaccinating children helps to reduce spread of COVID-19 across families, schools, and communities.

3. What is the target age group of the current campaign?

Any child 5 years to less than 12 years of age is eligible for a COVID- 19 pediatric vaccine.



4. Who should NOT receive Pfizer-BioNTech?

- Individuals who are less than 5 years and above 12 years of age
- Individuals having high grade fever at the time of coming for vaccination (can be rescheduled after the illness is settled)
- Patients with active COVID-19
- Those with mild COVID-19 can receive the vaccine once the isolation period is complete
- Those with severe COVID-19 can receive the vaccine once they become stable



5. Is the dose of COVID-19 vaccine the same for children 5 to less than 12-year-olds as it is for adults?

No, the dose of COVID-19 vaccine given to children ages 5 to less than 12 years is one-third of the dose as is given to adults. This is the dose that was tested in the clinical trial and determined to be safe and effective for children ages 5 to less than 12 years.

6. How is the current vaccine given/administered?

Currently available COVID-19 vaccines are injected through intramuscular route. It is injected in the upper arm and does not matter if left or right arm.



7. What vaccine will the child receive?

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine will be administered in which two doses administered 28 days apart.

8. Is the COVID-19 vaccine currently available in Pakistan, authenticated?

Yes, all vaccines that are currently being used have NOC from the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) and are on WHO's Emergency Use List (EUL).

9. What are the charges/cost of COVID-19 vaccine?

Currently, COVID-19 vaccine is being administered free of charge for children 5 years to less than 12 years by the Government of Pakistan.

10. How is COVID-19 vaccine injected and /what are the side effects?

Reported side effects are mild, temporary and like those experienced after routine vaccination. common side effects amongst children can include pain, redness and swelling at the injection site, fever/chills tiredness, headache, muscle pain and nausea

Paracetamol (follow the dose advice by doctor) and by regular water intake can help the child feel better. Although feeling feverish is not uncommon for 2 to 3 days and may indicate response to COVID-19 vaccination.

11. If a child already had COVID-19, should he/she be vaccinated?

Yes, a child can have a COVID-19 vaccination regardless of whether they already had COVID-19 infection. This is because the vaccine provides additional protection by reducing the risk of a repeat COVID-19 infection. Child can be vaccinated 12 weeks after being positive with COVID -19.

12. Are COVID-19 vaccines safe for children?

Yes. Before recommending COVID-19 vaccination for children, scientists conducted clinical trials with thousands of children to establish the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines for children.

Millions of children aged 5 to less than 12 years have received COVID-19 vaccine. Ongoing safety monitoring shows that the known risks and possible severe complications of COVID-19 outweigh the potential risks of having a rare, adverse reaction to vaccination.

13. Will the vaccine protect the child?

The COVID-19 vaccination will reduce the chances of suffering from COVID-19 disease. It may take a few weeks for the child to build up some protection from the vaccine. The first dose gives good protection while the second dose gives longer lasting protection against the virus.

Like all medicines, no vaccine is completely effective – some children may still get COVID-19 despite having vaccination, but this should be less severe



14. Can someone vaccinated against COVID-19 still get infected?

While trials have indicated that several COVID-19 vaccines to have high levels of efficacy, like all other vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines may not prevent infection to a 100% in vaccinated individuals. However, it does protect against disease effectively by reducing the risk of severe illness.

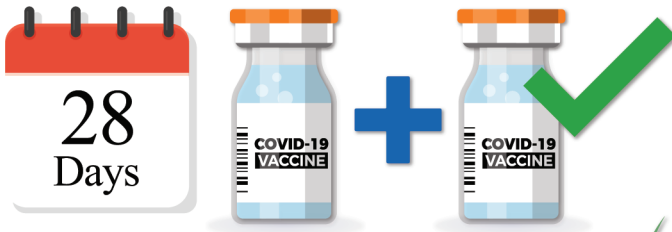
15. Can a child catch COVID-19 from the vaccine?

A child cannot catch COVID-19 from the vaccine but it is possible to have caught COVID-19 and not have the symptoms until after your vaccination.

16. What are the next steps after the first dose?

After the first dose of vaccine you will be offered a second dose after 28 days.

He/ she will be informed on the right timing for the second dose to help give the best and longest lasting protection



17. Is the campaign all over the country?

No, the campaign in the first phase, will be conducted in selected districts of Punjab and Sindh as well as in Islamabad where disease burden is high.



18. Why should children get vaccinated?

COVID-19 can make children very sick and sometimes the child needs treatment in a hospital. The benefit of COVID-19 vaccine like other vaccines, is that those vaccinated get protection without risking the potentially serious consequences of getting sick with COVID-19.

19. Where can I get my child vaccinated?

Children will be vaccinated at Health Facilities, Temporary Vaccination Centres, Schools, and Madrasas during the campaign.



20. Is the child required to follow COVID-19 SOPs even after the vaccination?



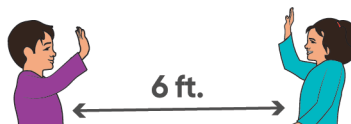
Where advised wear a face covering



Wash your hands regularly



Open windows to let fresh air in



Observe social distancing as much as possible