COVID-19 Vaccine Information
Kansas, let's do this!

FAQs
For Kansas families

Kansas
Department of Health
and Environment
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When do we expect vaccines to be available for children and adolescents?

Pfizer's vaccine is authorized for people as young as age 12.

Moderna's vaccine has been authorized for individuals age 18 and older and Moderna is currently running a trial for teens ages 12-17.

Johnson & Johnson announced at the start of April that it was set to begin including teens in ongoing vaccine trials.

Can someone under the age of 18 get vaccinated if they have a doctor's note and parental permission?

Yes – you can get the Pfizer vaccine if you are ages 12 and older and you have parental permission.

I am pregnant or lactating. Should I get the vaccine?

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, you may receive any of the currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines. Experts believe that the risks of COVID-19 illness outweigh risks of vaccination. Additional studies are underway or planned

Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I would like to have a baby one day?

Yes! If you are trying to become pregnant now or want to get pregnant in the future, you may receive a COVID-19 vaccine. There is no evidence that the COVID-19 vaccine causes any problems with pregnancy or fertility.

Is consent needed for youth under the ages of 18 to get vaccinated?

Yes. Parental or guardian consent can be obtained in two ways, but please check with each individual vaccination site in advance.

OPTION 1 By phone with a witness listening on the phone line as arranged by the vaccination site. Telephone registration staff can write "verbal consent obtained" on the guardian/parent signature line followed by their signature. A witness can write "witnessed personally" followed by their signature.

OPTION 2 Provide consent on paper or electronically. Each vaccination site has a consent form. Such consent forms can be mailed in advance to vaccination sites, emailed to vaccination sites, or brought to sites at the time of registration.

A small number of youth may give their own consent for COVID-19 vaccination, if there are special circumstances

NEXT STEPS HOW DO I GET THE VACCINE?

To find a vaccine provider, visit Vaccine Finder (www.vaccines.gov/search/), contact your Local Health Department, call 211, or call the KDHE COVID-19 Hotline (866-534-3463 / 866-KDHEINF). You can also text your zip code to 438829 (GETVAX) or 822862 (VACUNA) for assistance in English and Spanish, respectively.

Is the vaccine safe for young people? Are there other risks for youths that might not be present for adults?

The Pfizer vaccine is absolutely safe for children ages 12 years and older.

If young people are less likely to get sick from COVID-19, why do they need a vaccine?

Even though it is rare for children to get seriously ill from COVID-19, children who are 12 years and older have needed hospital care for COVID-19. This is especially true for teenagers with underlying health conditions such as weakened immune systems.

Having the vaccine may also give parents and teens alike peace of mind to return to more typical activities like in-person instruction and participating in sports, which is great for mental health.

Does the COVID-19 vaccine affect my child's fertility?

No.

The vaccine does not get incorporated into or change the DNA of the body's cells in any way. There is no reason to worry that the vaccine will affect fertility or future offspring.

My child already had COVID-19. Should they get the vaccine?

Yes. We don't know how long the immunity lasts from natural illness, and the vaccine is made to create a longer lasting immune response.

What do I need to provide to get vaccinated?

Most vaccination sites don't ask for proof of identity and many do not require documentation at all. You do not need to be a US citizen or provide citizenship status to get vaccinated

If easily available, officials recommend that you bring a photo ID that shows your name and birth date (to check spelling / eligibility), like a driver's license, school ID, or foreign government-issued ID card. Requirements vary by provider, so please check before you go.

How effective are the COVID-19 vaccines?

All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the U.S. are highly effective at preventing COVID-19 and in decreasing severe illness and/or hospitalizations.

Why is a COVID-19 vaccine helpful?

Getting the COVID-19 vaccine will help eliminate or significantly decrease the life-threatening complications of COVID-19 and will help reduce the spread of the disease.

They also help us protect our families and enable us to return to a normal life.