

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

FAQs

For college students,
teens, and children



What vaccine will I receive?

At this time, the Pfizer vaccine is the only vaccine authorized for use in people ages 12 years and older to prevent COVID-19. It is administered in two doses three weeks apart, injected into the arm muscle.



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

The Pfizer vaccine is safe for people ages 12 years and older. In clinical trials, enough teens and adolescents participated to show that the vaccine is safe for people in this age group.



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

Even though it is rare for children and young people to get seriously ill from COVID-19, Americans who are 12 years and older have needed hospital care for COVID-19.

This is especially true for young people with underlying health conditions such as weakened immune systems, obesity or chronic lung conditions. Having the vaccine may also give families peace of mind to return to more typical activities like in-person instruction and participating in sports, which is great for mental health.



I already had COVID-19. Should I 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.



Are there any teens who shouldn't get the vaccine? Should I talk to my doctor before scheduling an appointment?

There is no category of teenagers who shouldn't get the vaccine, unless they have a known allergy to one of the vaccine's components. There have been reports allergic reactions to the vaccine, but these occurrences are very rare. Teens with other types of allergies beyond any vaccine component can feel safe receiving the vaccine.



Does the COVID-19 vaccine affect 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.



Can I hang out with friends and family if I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Young people and families alike can have more peace of mind about the safety of resuming usual activities, which can support better mental health.

In group activities, teens should continue to wear masks. In one-on-one activities where a teen and their friend are both fully vaccinated, they can feel comfortable removing their masks so long as no one in either household is high-risk and unvaccinated.



What are the long-term side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines?

There are ongoing studies to understand the long-term side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine. However, vaccines rarely cause long-term side effects.

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.