

# answering your questions about teen's and the COVID-19 vaccine

The COVID-19 vaccine has been administered to many people country wide. Currently, Pfizer is approved for ages 16 and up, with 96 percent efficacy, while Moderna is 18-years-old and up. Pfizer is currently being studied in teen's 12-15 with even better efficacy. This has been an exciting time as we distribute vaccines and work towards herd immunity! But when will it be safe for our teen's to receive the vaccine?

## why your teen should get the COVID-19 vaccine

All Ohioans 16 years and older are eligible to get the COVID vaccine. Some adolescents and young adults may be hesitant to receive the vaccine. While uncommon, some adolescents may have severe COVID-19. Furthermore, young adults are currently spreading COVID infection at the highest rates. Vaccinating this age group will help decrease the spread of COVID among family members, close contacts and within our community. By decreasing the spread, everyone, including those at highest risk for disease, will be better protected.

## why is your teen hesitant to get vaccinated?

Through the years, your teen has received a number of routine vaccinations as part of well-child care. Nevertheless, some teens may be frightened of needles/shots. Others are fearful of possible side effects. While side effects are possible, it's your body's way of building protection so you don't get sick.

No COVID-19 vaccine can cause COVID in any individual, including children and adolescents.

## is it safe for adolescents to receive the vaccine?

**Dayton Children's will not be offering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.** The Pfizer vaccine was studied in research trials among adolescents 16 years and older. In these investigations, the risks associated with the vaccine were the same as seen in adults. Persons who have had a severe or an immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a previous dose of the vaccine or to any component of the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (e.g., propylene glycol) should not receive the vaccine.

## what side effects could my teen have?

Side effects are similar to those seen with other vaccines. The Pfizer COVID-19 mRNA vaccine might cause a few mild side effects that teens may notice one or two days after receiving a shot, but these mild symptoms should go away in a few days. Side effects may be worse after the second dose in some individuals. These side effects could include:

- Pain, redness and/or swelling at the injection site.
- Flu-like symptoms, including tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, joint pain, and nausea.
- Severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) have been seen following COVID-19 mRNA vaccinations, but these have been rare.

## where can my teen get vaccinated?

There are a few locations where adolescents may get vaccinated. These include:

- Public health department
- School system

## will my teen's vaccine be part of a clinical trial?

The Pfizer vaccine currently has FDA emergency use authorization approval for adolescents 16 years and older. People currently receiving EUA -approved vaccines will not be enrolled in a clinical trial.

