

COVID-19 VACCINATION

Q&A FOR BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL FAMILIES

Let's keep our kids in school! COVID-19 vaccinations are the best way to protect yourself, your family, and your community.



IS THE VACCINE SAFE FOR CHILDREN?

Yes. Over 20 million children in the USA have been vaccinated. Children under 12 receive a smaller dose of vaccine than older children and adults. The vaccine was fully tested in children. No steps were skipped. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends vaccination of children ages 6 months and up.



MY CHILD HAD COVID-19. DO THEY STILL NEED THE VACCINE?

Yes. Since the Omicron variant, antibodies from getting Covid are not as long-lasting as we thought. People who already had COVID can get COVID again 4 weeks later! Vaccination makes that less likely.



COULD THE VACCINE CAUSE HEALTH PROBLEMS FOR MY CHILD IN THE FUTURE?

Vaccine side effects happen soon after vaccination. Vaccine side effects don't appear months or years later. Side effects in children may include a sore arm, fatigue, joint and muscle aches, lymph node swelling and headache. These side effects will go away on their own in a few days.

Some parents may be concerned about reports of myocarditis in young adult men after vaccination. This is quite rare in children. No children developed myocarditis that participated in the vaccine clinical trials. COVID may cause long term health problems. The vaccine won't.



WHY IS VACCINATION SO IMPORTANT?

COVID is not going away. If your child gets COVID there is a small risk they will get very sick. A small number of children who get COVID get a dangerous inflammatory syndrome, known as Multi Inflammatory Syndrome in children. A small number of children get "long COVID," which means being sick for months. Getting children vaccinated will protect them from getting very sick and will minimize missed days of school by helping your child stay healthy and return to school after the required isolation period.

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