

# COVID Transmission in School and Vaccination Strategies

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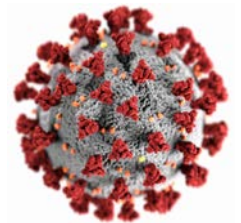
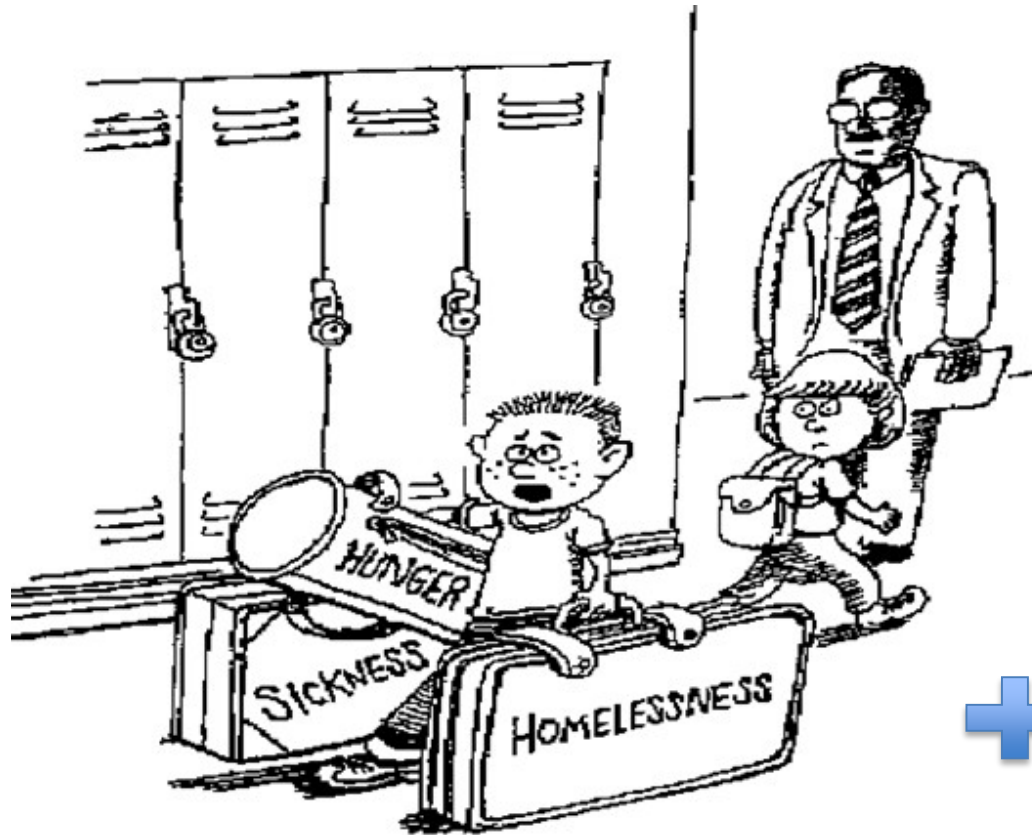
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# Objectives:

- Review of COVID Mitigation strategies employed and lessons learned from 2020 and 2021
- COVID in schools: transmission data
- Current 2021 Priorities and recommendations
- COVID Vaccination in children
  - Current COVID trends
  - Current COVID vaccine rates
  - Hesitancy vs. access- how do we decide?
  - Employing School-Based Vaccine Clinics

***“Could someone help me with these? I’m late for math class.”***



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A background image of red school lockers with black handles and combination locks. The lockers are arranged in rows and columns, creating a grid-like pattern. The text is overlaid on this background.

**CORONAVIRUS**  
**ALL SCHOOLS CLOSED**

***The AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.***

AAP: [COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry](#)

# AAP Guiding Principles for re-opening schools

- School policies must be **flexible and nimble** in responding to new information
- Develop strategies that **can be revised and adapted** to level of viral transmission in the school and community
- Policies should be **practical, feasible, and appropriate** for the student's developmental stage
- Special **considerations and accommodations to account for the diversity of youth** should be made, especially for our vulnerable populations, including those who are medically fragile, live in poverty, developmental challenges, or have special health care needs or disabilities, with the goal of safe return to school.

# AAP Guiding Principles for re-opening schools, Continued

- No child or adolescent should be excluded from school unless required in order to adhere to local public health mandates or because of unique medical needs.
  - Pediatricians, families, and schools should partner together to collaboratively identify and develop accommodations, when needed.
- School policies should be **guided by supporting the overall health and well-being** of all children, adolescents , their families, and their communities.

# Physical Distancing Guidelines- From 2020

- Evidence suggests 3 feet may be just as beneficial especially with cloth face coverings
- Important to encourage social distancing between adults
  - Increasing evidence of higher degree of spread between adults than from children to adults
- Grade specific:
  - Pre-Kindergarten/Preschool: Cohort classes to decrease crossover
  - Elementary: Spacing of desks and cohorting
  - Secondary: Spacing of desks, minimizing/eliminating lockers, increased spacing if activities include increased exhalation (singing, exercise)
- CDC guidance
  - Changes in spring to reflect this decision- 3 feet when feasible

# Face Coverings and PPE Guidelines

- Cloth face coverings should be used with all children over 2 years of age, based on developmental capacity and on feasibility
- Critical for staff to wear face coverings particularly if closer than 6 feet with students
  - Consideration for when teaching language/reading
- Masking and protective equipment for medical procedures should be based on current recommendations
- Guess what? This worked! Kids had set expectation and complied.

# What did we learn from the 2020 school year?

- Remote learning exacerbated already known disparities in academic achievement for students
- School serving children in higher socio-economic areas had more in-person learning days (further disparity!)
- These guidelines worked when implemented!
  - MMWR Wisconsin:  
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7004e3>
  - WHO: [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/risk-comms-updates/update39-covid-and-schools.pdf?sfvrsn=320db233\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/risk-comms-updates/update39-covid-and-schools.pdf?sfvrsn=320db233_2)

# New 2021 COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools

- Prioritize two things:
    - In-person learning
      - Everything possible MUST be done to KEEP students in school in-person
    - Safety
      - School transmission reflects (but does not drive) community transmission
      - Two Major Safety Recommendations:
        - Vaccination
        - Universal Masking
-

# Safety Recommendation #1: Vaccination

- It **may** become necessary for schools to collect COVID-19 vaccine information of staff and students and for schools to require COVID-19 vaccination for in-person learning.
- Adequate and timely COVID-19 vaccination resources for the whole school community must be available and accessible.
  - Consider school-based vaccination clinics!

# Safety Recommendation #2: Universal Masks

- All students older than 2 years and all school staff should wear face masks at school (unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use).

# Why Universal Masking?

- Many unvaccinated students: low rates or ineligible
  - Lack of a system to monitor vaccine status
  - Difficulty in monitoring or enforcing mask policies for those who are not vaccinated
  - Possibility of low vaccination uptake within the surrounding school community
  - Continued concerns for variants that are more easily spread among children, adolescents, and adults
- .....

# Why Universal Masking?

- Universal masking is the best and most effective strategy to create consistent messages, expectations, enforcement, and compliance without the added burden of needing to monitor vaccination status
- Local policy and law considerations must be reviewed

# Schools and COVID Transmission

[Masking in Schools | The ABC Science Collaborative Provides Clarity on Questions - ABC Science Collaborative](#)

Researchers studied within-school transmission of COVID-19 in the setting of universal masking. ***The "School Safety, Masking, and the Delta Variant" study was published in Pediatrics.***

**20**  
NORTH CAROLINA  
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

**59,561**  
STUDENTS

**11,854**  
STAFF



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# ABC Science Collaborative

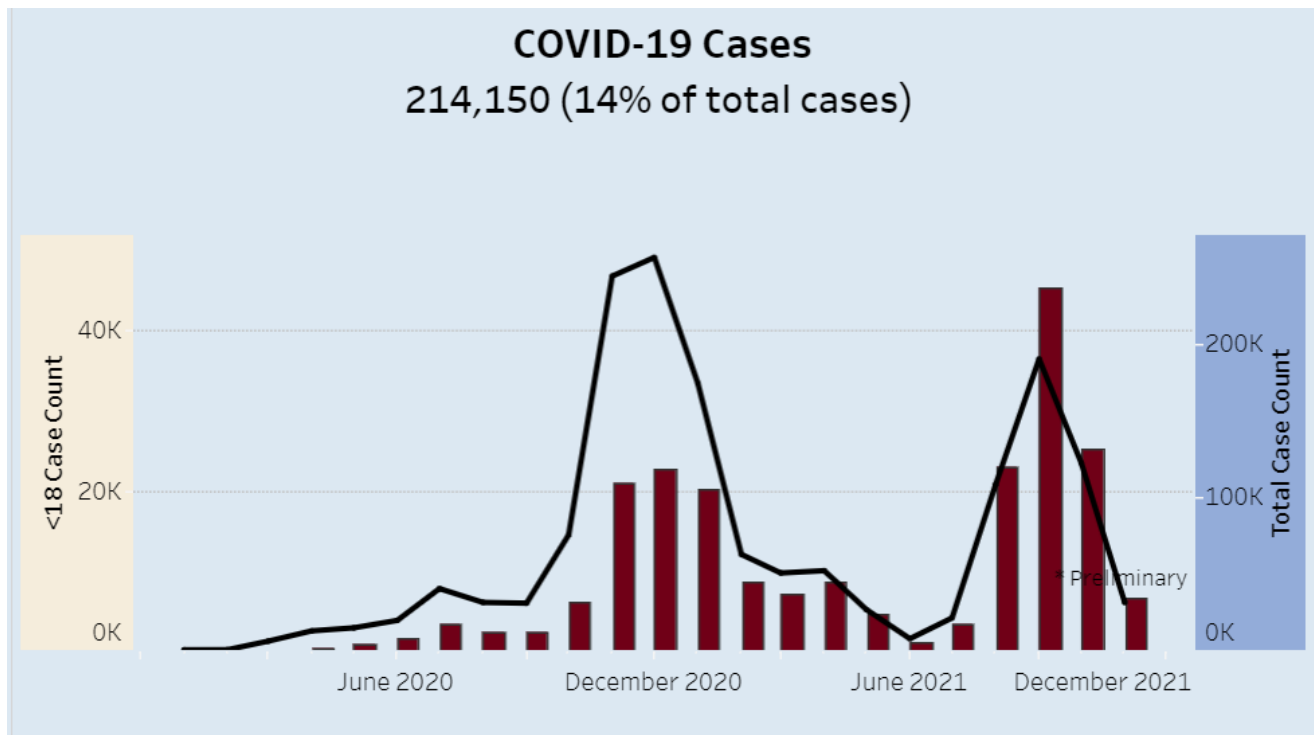


## WHAT DID RESEARCHERS LEARN?

The ABC Science Collaborative found that within-school transmission of COVID-19 was low with less than 3% of people exposed to COVID-19 in school developing infections, even with the more infectious Delta variant. Transmission was low in the setting of students and staff wearing masks.

# COVID Rates and Vaccination in Children

- [Children | COVID-19 \(ohio.gov\)](https://www.ohio.gov/children/covid-19)



# State of Ohio | Vaccination Rates by Age Group

Last Updated:  
11/10/2021

## View By

Select to view by Vaccine Started or Completed  
Vaccine Started\*

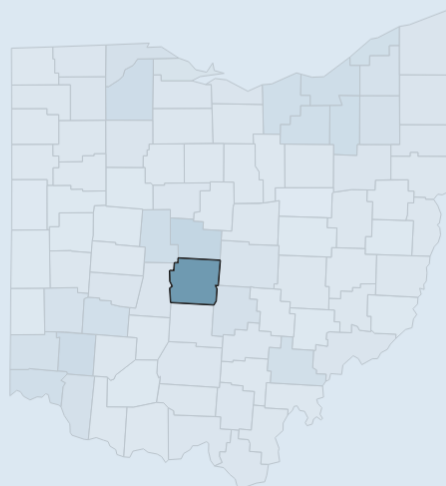
Vaccine Started*	5+	12+	18+	65+
% of Population	64.95%	71.49%	72.70%	88.57%
# Recipients	795,539	790,336	735,232	144,501

## Age Group

Select to change map colors  
12-17

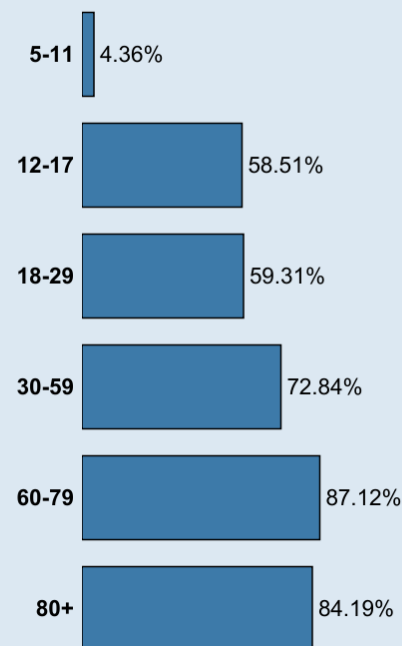
## Click County to Filter Metrics

Counties are colored by % of population with Vaccine Started\*



© OpenStreetMap

## By Age Group



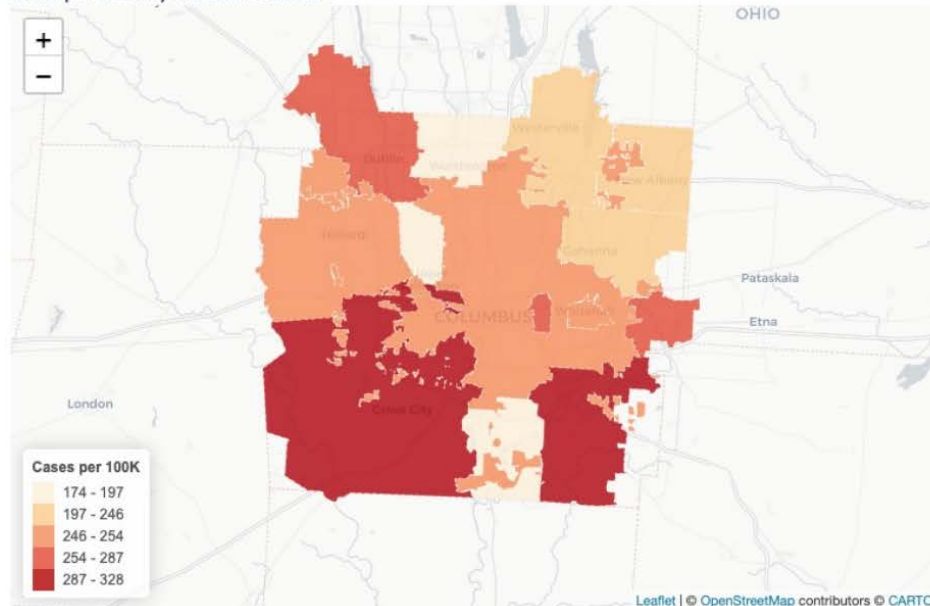
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# Schools and COVID Transmission

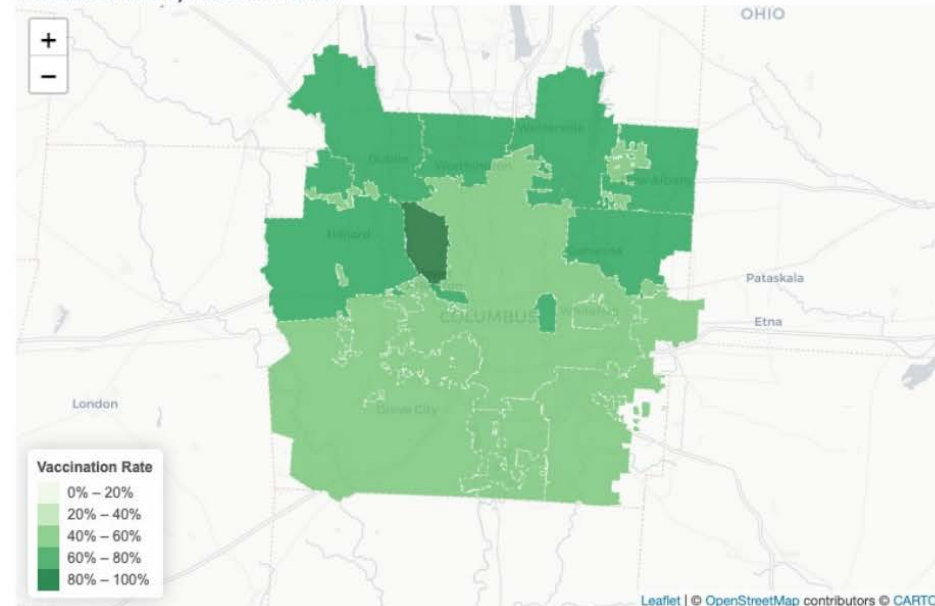
COVID-19 case rates  
(dark red = high case rates)

Percent Vaccinated  
(dark green = high % vaccinated)

Cases per 100K by Districts: Franklin



Vaccination Rate by Districts: Franklin



# State of Ohio | COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Locations

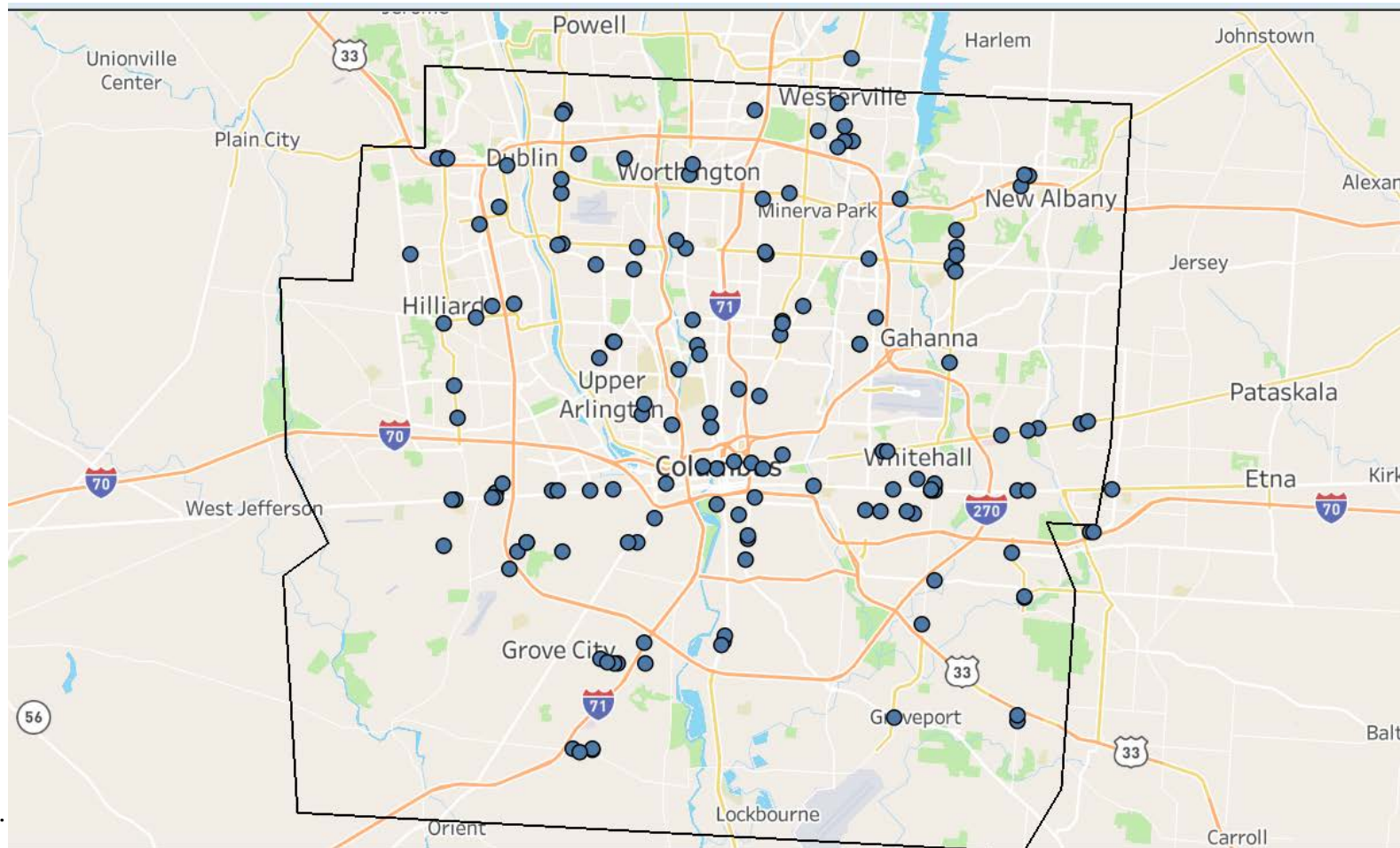
Last Updated:  
11/10/2021

Name  
All

County  
Franklin

Zip  
All

Total Administration Locations: **150**



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# Vaccination- Access or Hesitancy?

- What is access?
  - Access to clinics
  - Access to reputable information
  - Access to trusted experts to ask questions
- What is hesitancy?
  - Strongly held beliefs- may include friend/family/community influence
  - Feeling uninformed to ‘choose to act’

# Misinformation

USATODAY

**Would you get COVID-19 vaccine if the pope asked you to? He calls it 'an act of love.'**

Elizabeth Weise, USA TODAY

August 18, 2021 · 2 min read

Editor's Featured Post | Home Sidebar

## 31 Reasons Why I Won't Take a COVID Vaccine

I refuse to turn myself into a chronic patient who receives injections of new pharmaceutical products on a regular basis simply to reduce my chances of getting a severe case of a virus that these injections do not even prevent.

By Speed The Shift · March 3, 2021

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Tweet on Twitter

Pin

VISION LAUNCH MEDIA GEAR



**MAKE AMERICA**  
★★★ FREE AGAIN ★★★

## Serious Illness From Covid Linked To Infertility Risks

Some covid misinformation suggests covid vaccines can cause infertility (not true), but now research says the disease itself carries that risk, both to women and men. Separately, research finds babies born to women who were covid-positive are significantly more likely to have health issues.



## Why You Should Consider NOT Getting The COVID Vaccine



Posted by [Grace Saldana](#) | Dec 16, 2020 | Politics

## What is COVID-9?

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. You can get COVID-19 through contact with another person with the virus. Along with the respiratory system, it can affect other organs such as the kidneys and heart. Although most people have mild symptoms, strong cases of COVID-19 can be fatal. Some people can become severely ill or experience post-COVID symptoms for weeks after being infected.

## COVID-19 in Children

Cases and hospitalizations due to COVID-19 are lower in children compared to adults. However, cases amongst children have been steadily increasing since March 2020. Like adults, children are at risk of developing severe illness and complications from COVID-19. Additionally, children with underlying medical conditions may be at increased risk for severe illness. With returning to in-person school, sports, and activities, it is important to understand the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and the importance of vaccinating your children against COVID-19.

## Symptoms in Children

Children may have many of these nonspecific symptoms, few, or be asymptomatic.

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Myalgia
- Cough
- Nasal congestion or rhinorrhea
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting



## Schedule your COVID-19 Vaccination

Scan the code below with your cellular device to schedule an appointment



Walk-Ins: Nationwide Children's is accepting walk-ins at the free COVID-19 vaccine clinic on Fridays from 7:30 to 11:30 am in the Orange Clinic, located in Stecker Auditorium (575 S. 18th St., Columbus 43205). Self-parking is available in our Outpatient Care Center parking garage for a minimal fee.

Need more information about protecting your child against COVID-19? Visit the Nationwide Children's Hospital and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) websites.



## Vaccinating your Child Against COVID-19



## Who should get vaccinated?



The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the use of the Pfizer vaccine in individuals 16 years and older and has authorized it for emergency use in individuals 12-15 years. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends COVID-19 vaccination for all children and adolescents 12 years of age and older who do not have medical contraindications.

## Should my child get vaccinated if they have already had COVID-19?

Yes, the vaccine can prevent new infections. It covers different strains of the virus and offers the best way to protect you against COVID-19.

## Why should my child get vaccinated?

- The vaccine is safe!
- Protect your child from severe COVID-19
- Protect loved ones by reducing the spread of the virus
- Reduce the spread of the virus within the community
- Return to traditional in-person school, sports, and other extracurricular activities

## What vaccine is available for my child?

The Pfizer-Biontech COVID-19 vaccine is available to children 12 and over.



## What research has been done?

Clinical trials have been conducted with individuals 12 years and older by several pharmaceutical companies.

## What is in the vaccine and how does it work?

The vaccine has small parts of inactive virus called mRNA. When injected, our bodies recognize these portions of the virus and make a memory of the virus by producing antibodies. This memory of the virus helps our bodies fight the COVID infection quicker and stronger when exposed to the virus.

## Is the vaccine safe?

Yes, all available vaccines have been proven to be very safe for people. These vaccines have gone through the same testing process as the vaccines for tetanus and polio. It is impossible to get COVID-19 from the vaccine because none of the vaccines contain the entire, alive COVID-19 virus. Since December 2020, millions of individuals have received a COVID vaccination without significant harm.

## How effective is the vaccine?

The COVID vaccine has been shown to be effective in the adolescent pediatric population (ages 12 to 21). There were reduced cases of COVID-19 compared to unvaccinated individuals in Pfizer research studies.

## How is the vaccine given?

The vaccine is injected into a muscle. One shot is given, then the second shot is given 21 days later to complete the 2 shot vaccination. A third dose of the vaccine is recommended for individuals 12 years and older who have been determined to have certain kinds of immunocompromise. Talk to your doctor about whether or not a third dose is recommended for your child.

## What are the side effects of the vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine will not cause your child to become very ill. As the immune system responds to the vaccine, your child may have brief symptoms, such as arm soreness, headache, tiredness, and fever, lasting 1 to 2 days. These symptoms are signs that your body is building up protection against COVID-19.

## Can my child get the vaccine with other routine vaccinations?

Yes, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics support the administration of the COVID vaccine at the same time as routine vaccines.

## How much does the vaccine cost?

All authorized vaccines for COVID-19 are free to the public. You do not need to show proof of being a US citizen to get the vaccine.

## Where can my child get vaccinated?

Contact your child's doctor to see if the vaccine is available in their office. Nationwide Children's Hospital offers general public vaccinations by appointment or walk-in. (See back panel)

### **What side effects could my child have?**

Reported side effects are like other vaccines and may include:

- Pain, swelling and redness in the arm where you get the shot.
- Tiredness, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, chills, fever, and nausea and vomiting.
- There is a small chance that the vaccine could cause a severe allergic reaction. Severe allergic reactions are rare but can happen.

We will watch your child for 15 minutes after they get the shot. We are watching for any allergic reaction.

### **How soon after the vaccine will my child build immunity?**

Your child will gain full immunity approximately two weeks after their second dose.

### **How was the COVID-19 vaccine developed so fast?**

The unprecedented scientific cooperation, building on a decade of research, allowed the COVID-19 vaccine to be safe for the public fast. Despite this shorter-than-normal development timeframe, all testing processes and standards were the same. There were no shortcuts in the approval process.

### **Could the COVID-19 vaccine cause infertility in my child?**

There is no evidence or data that shows the COVID-19 vaccine causes infertility for women or men.

### **Why should children get a COVID-19 vaccine when they don't get as sick with COVID-19?**

Data shows that children are typically less impacted than adults with COVID-19. However, some children still get really sick from COVID-19 and can have long-term effects. Children can also transmit the virus to others and get them sick.

### **Once my child gets the vaccine, do they need to follow safety guidelines?**

While vaccination efforts are ongoing, safety and mitigation efforts should continue in order to protect unvaccinated and immunocompromised individuals. Studies have shown that vaccinated people can still become infected and can transmit the illness to unvaccinated individuals. Continue washing your hands, wearing a mask and following distancing guidelines in accordance with the current CDC guidelines. Visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/index.html) for more information.

### **Where can I get more information about the Pfizer vaccine?**

Learn more at

[NationwideChildrens.org/COVID-19 Vaccine](https://NationwideChildrens.org/COVID-19_Vaccine)

# School-Located Vaccination Clinics: Best Practices for School Districts

A Guide for School District Administrators



- Outline of steps to hold school vaccine clinics
- Role of trusted school nurse to provide education
- [School-Located Vaccination Clinics: Best Practices for School Districts | CDC](#)

# Resources

- AAP Clinical Guidance: [COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry](#)
- Healthychildren.org: [Return to School During COVID-19](#)
- [Children | COVID-19 \(ohio.gov\)](#)