Fl♥rida KidCare

HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE

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Frequently Asked Questions About COVID-19 Vaccines

1. **Are COVID-19 vaccines available for children?**
   The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for use in children age 12 or older. Learn more about this vaccine at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) website.

2. **Are COVID-19 vaccines safe and effective?**
   The [CDC](CDC) confirms COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. The vaccines also help prevent serious illness, hospitalization, and death in those who do get COVID-19.

   Before getting authorization by the FDA, clinical trials showed COVID-19 vaccines to be safe and effective.

3. **Where can children get the vaccine? Can I go to CVS or Walgreens, or do I have to go somewhere special?**
   You can take your child to get the vaccine anywhere it is offered. Right now, only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized for children age 12 or older, but it is likely that other vaccines will become available in the future.

   Find a vaccine near you by using the Florida Department of Health's vaccine locator.

4. **How much does the COVID-19 vaccine cost?**
   COVID-19 vaccines are free, regardless of your child's immigration or health insurance status. For more information, visit the CDC's website.

5. **Will I still have to pay a copay?** No.

6. **How do I know if the vaccine location is "in network" for my insurance?**
   Your child does not need to visit an in-network provider to get the COVID-19 vaccine. All COVID-19 vaccine providers agree that they will not charge regardless of whether they are in-network for you or not.

7. **Are all of the vaccines available to my child?**
    Right now, no. Currently, only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine
    is authorized for children age 12 or older.

8. **Will my child have side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine?**
    After vaccination, there may be some side effects. These will likely go away in a few
    days. Side effects are normal signs your body is building protection. Common side
    effects may include pain and swelling on the arm where you received the shot, fever,
    chills, tiredness, and headache. If you are worried about certain side effects, you
    should call your health care provider.

    For more information, visit the CDC's [website](#).

9. **How long after receiving the vaccine is my child fully vaccinated?**
    The [CDC](#) confirms it typically takes two weeks after receiving the last dose of a
    COVID-19 vaccine for the body to build protection against the virus that causes
    COVID-19.

10. **Can my child still spread COVID-19 to others?**
    It is possible to spread the virus even after getting the vaccine. The vaccine is
    designed to stop the virus from making someone sick. Scientists are still learning
    how well vaccines prevent children from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19
    to others, even if they do not have symptoms.

    However, in addition to getting vaccinated for COVID-19, the best way to prevent
    illness is to practice tried and true good health habits, including:

    - Getting vaccinated against other preventable diseases.
    - Staying home when you are sick.
    - Washing your hands frequently and for at least 20 seconds.
    - Using hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol in the ingredients.
    - Using your tissue, sleeve or elbow to cover coughs or sneezes.
    - Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
    - Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.
    - Opening windows, using air filters and turning on fans to improve ventilation
      in your home.

11. **How long will the vaccine be effective for my child?**
    Scientists are still learning how long COVID-19 vaccines protect people.

12. **Will the current COVID-19 vaccines available protect my child against the new
    strands and variants of the virus that causes COVID-19?**
    The COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective. [According to the CDC](#), current data
    suggest that COVID-19 vaccines used in the U.S. are effective against known
    variants of the virus that causes COVID-19.

13. **Can the vaccine give my child COVID-19?**
    No, the vaccine cannot give your child COVID-19. Millions of people in the U.S. have received COVID-19 vaccines, and these vaccines have experienced the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. This monitoring includes using both established and new safety monitoring systems to make sure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe. The vaccine does not contain the live virus that causes COVID-19 so a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make your child sick with COVID-19. Learn more [facts about COVID-19 vaccines](#).

    Your child may have side effects after a shot, but this is just a sign the vaccine is working.

14. **Are there any children who should NOT get the vaccine?**
    There may be reasons to delay the vaccine in some children who are actively sick with underlying conditions or who have had a reaction to the components of the vaccine before. We recommend talking to your child's pediatrician if you have concerns.

15. **Does my child(ren) need to receive the COVID-19 vaccine before going back to school in-person in the fall?**
    Florida does not require children to get a COVID-19 vaccine before returning to school in-person.

16. **Where can I take my child(ren) to receive a COVID-19 vaccine?**
    The Florida Department of Health has an [online vaccine locator](#). You can text your ZIP code to GETVAX (for English) or VACUNA (for Spanish) to receive a message with three possible vaccination sites and phone numbers to call for an appointment.

17. **I am healthy/My family is healthy. Why do we need the vaccine?**
    Even if you are young and healthy, the CDC says everyone age 12 and older should get a vaccine. People who are considered low risk for getting really sick from COVID-19 can still pass the virus on to others who may not do as well. The vaccine protects you and all your loved ones. The more people who get the vaccine in your community, the safer everyone will be.