As a school nurse and trusted resource, you play an important role in ensuring your school is protected from vaccine preventable diseases.

We know that COVID-19 is the third leading cause of death this year so far - just like in 2021. And a recent MMWR summarized that children who have had COVID-19 compared to those who have not, had higher rates of acute pulmonary embolism, myocarditis and cardiomyopathy, venous thromboembolic event, acute and unspecified renal failure, and type 1 diabetes.

COVID-19 vaccines are the best way to protect children from the dangers and impacts of COVID-19. Being up to date with COVID-19 vaccines also helps to keep children in school, socializing, and participating in sports and activities.

Frequently changing recommendations and new information can be stressful for families, administrators, teachers, and others. Information here is meant to outline and summarize clinical recommendations and public health guidance and does not replace local or state rules related to these activities.

We are here to help. Visit illinoisaap.org or SCAN HERE for more information and resources.
# Table of Contents

**Page 4:** Quick COVID-19 Vaccine Facts  
**Page 5:** Talking to Others about COVID-19 Vaccines  
**Pages 6 and 7:** Frequently Asked Questions  
**Pages 8 through 12:** Dosing Charts  
**Pages 13 through 15:** 2022/2023 School Guidance  
**Pages 16 and 17:** How to Hold a Child During Vaccination (patient handout) - English & Spanish  
**Page 18:** Resources  
**Page 19:** Sample Social Media Images and Messages  
**Page 20:** Sample Letters to Send to Parents/Guardians About COVID-19 Vaccines
Are you up to date with your COVID-19 vaccine?

Boosters & Additional Doses

For People who've been vaccinated but protection has decreased over time.

For people who are immunocompromised.

Recommendations are made to make sure we are protecting people the best we can.

You can mix & match vaccine brands.

Being vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe.

Number of doses depend on your age & health status.

Over 3.5 billion people in the world have been vaccinated!

Pregnant & lactating people need to stay up to date.

Unvaccinated people usually have worse outcomes than vaccinated people who get COVID-19.

If you have had COVID-19 you should still get vaccinated to ensure you're still up to date.

Don't wait! Just make sure your symptoms have resolved and you're no longer isolating.

They have a higher chance of dying.

They get sicker.

Guidelines & recommendations change.

We are learning more as the virus changes.

Immunocompromised means someone with a weakened immune system for many reasons.

Immunocompromised improves their immune system's response to doses they already have.

Visualized by Ink Factory.
TALKING ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES

You may encounter someone who is hesitant or skeptical of the COVID-19 vaccines. Here are some tips to help you navigate tricky conversations and effectively communicate about COVID-19 vaccines.

Be Prepared
Brush up on the most recent scientifically accurate information about COVID-19 vaccines. Also, make sure you are familiar with your school’s policies and procedures regarding the COVID-19 vaccines and positive COVID-19 tests. Identify members of the school or division leadership who can support you.

Approach with Empathy
Navigating the COVID-19 pandemic has been a confusing and difficult time for many. It’s likely no surprise that parents/guardians might be unsure or nervous to send their children back to school or to get them vaccinated. No matter what context the conversation, approach it with a sense of calm understanding. Your willingness to listen and not judge any questions is an important part in establishing trust between you and a parent/guardian. Remember, everyone can agree on the goal of keeping children in good health.

Have Confidence
Remember you are a licensed medical professional. Your guidance can be essential in forming a parent/guardian’s decision to vaccinate. State the evidence-based facts about COVID-19 vaccines with confidence. Share the importance of vaccines in protecting children from potentially life-threatening diseases. Consider sharing your personal experiences with vaccinating yourself and/or loved ones if you feel comfortable doing so.

Keep the Conversation Going
Not every conversation will end with a parent/guardian signing up for a vaccine. Keep the conversation going by encouraging them to talk to their child's healthcare provider and connecting them with online resources such as Healthychildren.org.

5
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the current recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines for children?
The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that all eligible children, who do not have contraindications, get a COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 vaccinations are approved for children ages 6 months and older.

Why does my child need the vaccine if COVID-19 is not as dangerous for them?
Although death among children is lower than for adults, the death rate is still a problem (more than 400 children ages 0-4 have died of COVID-19). Children aren’t supposed to die at the same rate as adults. COVID-19 was in the top 10 causes of death in children for 2020 and this year, it’s the third cause of death in the US overall!

What if my child already had COVID-19?
They should still be vaccinated. Re-infection with COVID-19 is possible and some studies show unvaccinated people are more likely to get COVID-19 again if they have already had it compared to vaccinated people. Getting vaccinated helps to protect someone from getting seriously ill and dying from COVID-19. Vaccination should occur once the person has recovered from the acute illness (if the person had symptoms) and they are no longer in isolation.

Are the side effects of the vaccine dangerous?
Mild side effects are expected. Common side effects include a sore arm, headache, fever, tiredness - but these are usually don't last long and are not serious or dangerous. These are signs that the vaccine is working to stimulate the immune system. Even if you or your child don't get side effects, the vaccine is still working!
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

A child is having a birthday soon or between doses, which vaccine should they get?
COVID-19 vaccines are age specific. A child should get the vaccine product that is recommended for their age at the time of administration. This might mean they get one dosage when they are a certain age and a different one when they are older! Parents should **not** delay a vaccine because a birthday is coming.

Why is the vaccine dosage not by weight?
Vaccines work differently than other medications. They do the work **before** someone gets sick, so a very small dose is all the cells need to learn how to stop germs. The vaccine doesn’t need to get all around the body, only to the cells that will learn to respond to the virus if it comes along. Antibiotics, for example, are by weight because the right amount is necessary to ensure it’s getting to all parts of the body to find and fix the problem.

Can a child get myocarditis from the vaccine?
This is very, very rare. In fact, the risk of myocarditis is greater from COVID-19 infection than from COVID-19 vaccines. Also, myocarditis from the vaccine is milder, more people fully recover and it usually doesn’t last as long.

Can a child get other vaccines on the same day?
Yes! Children and others can get more than one vaccine at the same time!

Is one vaccine manufacturer recommended over the other for children?
No. Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine products are proven to be safe and effective.

Where can my child get a COVID-19 vaccine?
At your child’s doctor/pediatrician’s office. Vaccines are also available through pharmacies depending on your child’s age (3 years and older).
See the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance for children who are transitioning from a younger to older age group during their vaccination window.

* Complete the primary series with same product. If the vaccine product previously administered cannot be determined or is no longer available, any age-appropriate mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product may be administered at least 28 days after the first dose. Any COVID-19 vaccine product (age appropriate) may be administered for a booster dose. It does not need to be the same product used for the primary series.

† Persons with a recent SARS-CoV-2 infection may consider delaying a primary series or booster dose by 3 months from symptom onset or positive test (if infection was asymptomatic).

‡ Some studies in adolescents and adults have shown the small risk of myocarditis associated with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines might be reduced and peak antibody responses and vaccine effectiveness may be increased with an interval longer than 4 weeks. An 8-week interval may be optimal for people who are not moderately or severely immunocompromised and ages 6 months–64 years, especially for males ages 12–39 years. Source: CDC.

See the CDC's Guidance for latest updates and information on who is considered moderately or severely immunocompromised.
* Complete the primary series with same product. If the vaccine product previously administered cannot be determined or is no longer available, any age-appropriate mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product may be administered at least 28 days after the first dose. Any COVID-19 vaccine product (age appropriate) may be administered for a booster dose. It does not need to be the same product used for the primary series.

† Persons with a recent SARS-CoV-2 infection may consider delaying a primary series or booster dose by 3 months from symptom onset or positive test (if infection was asymptomatic).

‡ Some studies in adolescents and adults have shown the small risk of myocarditis associated with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines might be reduced and peak antibody responses and vaccine effectiveness may be increased with an interval longer than 4 weeks. An 8-week interval may be optimal for people who are not moderately or severely immunocompromised and ages 6 months–64 years, especially for males ages 12–39 years. Source: CDC.
**MODERNA COVID-19 VACCINATION SCHEDULE AND DOSING**

**FOR NON-IMMUNOCOMPROMISED POPULATIONS**

---

**Moderna**  
**Ages 6 months–5 years**  
dose/injection volume  
(Do NOT dilute before use)  
Blue Cap (magenta label)

![Dose 1 Primary](25 μg/0.25 mL)  
In 4-8 weeks

![Dose 2 Primary](25 μg/0.25 mL)

---

**Moderna**  
**Ages 6 years–11 years**  
dose/injection volume  
(Do NOT dilute before use)  
Blue Cap (purple label)

![Dose 1 Primary](50 μg/0.5 mL)  
In 3-8 weeks

![Dose 2 Primary](50 μg/0.5 mL)

---

**Moderna**  
**Ages 12 years–17 years**  
dose/injection volume  
(Do NOT dilute before use)  
Red Cap (blue label)

![Dose 1 Primary](100 μg/0.5 mL)  
In 3-8 weeks

![Dose 2 Primary](100 μg/0.5 mL)

---

**Moderna**  
**Ages 18 years and older**  
dose/injection volume  
(Do NOT dilute before use)  
Red Cap (blue label)  
Blue Cap (purple label)

![Dose 1 Primary](100 μg/0.5 mL)  
In 3-8 weeks

![Dose 2 Primary](100 μg/0.5 mL)  
In at least 5 months

![Booster Dose 3](50 μg/0.25 mL)  
In at least 4 months

![Booster Dose 4](50 μg/0.25 mL)

---

* Complete the primary series with same product. If the vaccine product previously administered cannot be determined or is no longer available, any age-appropriate mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product may be administered at least 28 days after the first dose. Any COVID-19 vaccine product (age appropriate) may be administered for a booster dose. It does not need to be the same product used for the primary series.

† Persons with a recent SARS-CoV-2 infection may consider delaying a primary series or booster dose by 3 months from symptom onset or positive test (if infection was asymptomatic).

‡ Some studies in adolescents and adults have shown the small risk of myocarditis associated with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines might be reduced and peak antibody responses and vaccine effectiveness may be increased with an interval longer than 4 weeks. An 8-week interval may be optimal for people who are not moderately or severely immunocompromised and ages 6 months–64 years, especially for males ages 12–39 years. Source: CDC.

---

See the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance for children who are transitioning from a younger to older age group during their vaccination window.

---

See the CDC’s Guidance for latest updates and information on who is considered moderately or severely immunocompromised.

---

illinoisvaccinates.com
MODERNA COVID-19 VACCINATION SCHEDULE AND DOSING

FOR IMMUNOCOMPROMISED POPULATIONS

Moderna
Ages 6 months–5 years
- dose/injection volume (Do NOT dilute before use)
- Blue Cap (magenta label)

Moderna
Ages 6 years–11 years
- dose/injection volume (Do NOT dilute before use)
- Blue Cap (purple label)

Moderna
Ages 12 years–17 years
- dose/injection volume (Do NOT dilute before use)
- Red Cap (blue label)

Moderna
Ages 18 years and older
- dose/injection volume (Do NOT dilute before use)
- Red Cap (blue label)
- Blue Cap (purple label)

* Complete the primary series with same product. If the vaccine product previously administered cannot be determined or is no longer available, any age-appropriate mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product may be administered at least 28 days after the first dose. Any COVID-19 vaccine product (age appropriate) may be administered for a booster dose. It does not need to be the same product used for the primary series.

† Persons with a recent SARS-CoV-2 infection may consider delaying a primary series or booster dose by 3 months from symptom onset or positive test (if infection was asymptomatic).

‡ Some studies in adolescents and adults have shown the small risk of myocarditis associated with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines might be reduced and peak antibody responses and vaccine effectiveness may be increased with an interval longer than 4 weeks. An 8-week interval may be optimal for people who are not moderately or severely immunocompromised and ages 6 months–64 years, especially for males ages 12–39 years. Source: CDC.

See the CDC’s Guidance for latest updates and information on who is considered moderately or severely immunocompromised.
**Janssen (J&J)**
Ages 18 years and older
dose/injection volume
(dilute before use)

**Novavax**
Ages 18 years and older
dose/injection volume

**FOR IMMUNOCOMPROMISED POPULATIONS**

**Janssen (J&J)**
Ages 18 years and older
dose/injection volume
(Pfizer’s Gray Cap
Moderna’s Red Cap (blue label)
Moderna’s Blue Cap (purple label))

**OTHER COVID-19 VACCINATION SCHEDULE AND DOSING**
FOR NON-IMMUNOCOMPROMISED POPULATIONS

**People ages 18-49 years**: Those who received Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine as both their primary series dose and booster dose may receive a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months after the Janssen booster dose.

**People ages 50 years and older**: should get a 2nd booster.

§ Age-appropriate mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are preferred over the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine for all vaccine doses for all vaccine-eligible people 18 years of age and older. Janssen COVID-19 vaccine should only be used in limited situations. See [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/doses.html).

1 mRNA vaccine must be used.

Source: [COVID-19 Vaccine Interim COVID-19 Immunization Schedule for 6 Months of Age and Older](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/COVID-19-immunization-schedule.html)
2022/2023 SCHOOL GUIDANCE

On Quarantine and Isolation
- Considerations for Persons with Systemic Signs and Symptoms Pre- and Post- COVID-19 Vaccination
- Decision Tree Recommendations for Evaluating Symptomatic Individuals from Pre-K, K-12 Schools and Day Care Programs
- CPS COVID-19 Guidance

Required Vaccinations
- IDPH 2021 Minimum Immunization Requirements
- COVID-19 Safety Guidance and Updates
- CPS 2022-2023 Minimum Health and Immunization Requirements
**When to Isolate or Quarantine**

For the purposes of this chart, exposure means close contact or being within 6 feet of someone who has/likely has COVID-19 for **15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period while inside**. Also note: See below for steps to take based after a COVID-19 exposure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposed person’s status</th>
<th>exposed within last 90 days (must be documented)</th>
<th>Up to date on COVID-19 vaccines*</th>
<th>Not up to date on COVID-19 vaccines* and asymptomatic**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>To prevent spread</strong></td>
<td><strong>No Quarantine</strong></td>
<td><strong>No Quarantine</strong></td>
<td><strong>Quarantine</strong> Keep away from others</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Actions that must be followed for 10 days | - Watch for symptoms  
- Around others at school, at home, and in public  
- Avoid travel  
- Avoid being around people who are at high risk  
- Isolate and test if symptoms develop  

**Day 0 = Date Exposed**  
**Day 1 = First Full Day After Last Contact** | - Watch for symptoms  
- Around others at school, at home, and in public  
- Avoid travel  
- Avoid being around people who are at high risk  
- Isolate and test if symptoms develop  

- Test after day 5. If negative and still asymptomatic, **resume activities and return to school**. | - Stay home 5 days after last contact  
- Around others at school, at home, and in public |

as of 8/17/22

*See CDC guidance for criteria

**If exposed at school and asymptomatic person may qualify for Test to Stay**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>ISOLATION</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A PERSON WHO</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **TO PREVENT SPREAD** | **Isolate**  
Keep separate from others | **Isolate**  
Keep separate from others |
| **Actions that must be followed for 10 days** | Stay home for 5 days and isolate from others | Stay home and isolate from others until:  
• Receiving a negative COVID-19 test result, at home test may or may not be accepted  
OR  
• Fever-free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours and  
• Diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours and  
• Other symptoms have significantly improved  
• Consistent masking upon return through day 10 |
| **DAY 0 = Day symptoms start or day of positive test** | After 5 days resume activities and return to school* if:  
• Asymptomatic (without symptoms)  
OR if symptomatic:  
• Fever-free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours and  
• Diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours and  
• Other symptoms have significantly improved | around others at home, in public, and in school through day 10.  
• Consistent masking upon return through day 10 |
| **DAY 1 = First full day after symptoms started or test was done** | | |

*A clinical provider may determine that need a longer period of isolation is needed

as of 8/17/22

Adapted from: Revised Public Health IDPH and Quarantine and Isolation CDC
How to Hold Your Little One During a Vaccination

A comforting hold when getting your child vaccinated can help by giving them a feeling of safety and keeping them from being scared (you'll be holding them rather than having to overpower them). These holds allow the vaccine to be given carefully. You can coach, talk to, or distract your child during their vaccination too - this can help them to focus on something else. Make sure you check in with your own feelings. Children feel calmer when you are calm.

1. Swaddle your baby
2. Take out the leg that the vaccine will be given in

Breastfeeding during vaccination is great to do too!

CHEST-TO-CHEST

1. Have your child sit on your lap facing you
2. Wrap their legs around your waist
3. Their arm can go under or over your arm

BACK-TO-CHEST

1. Hold your child on your lap facing out
2. Place your arms over theirs for a hug-like hold

SIDEWAYS LAP SIT

1. Have your child sit on your lap facing sideways
2. Secure the child’s arm with your own arm
3. Secure their legs with yours
Cómo Sostener a tu Pequeño Durante la Vacunación

Un abrazo confortable al vacunar a tu hijo puede ayudar a darle una sensación de seguridad y evitar que se asuste (le estarás sujetando en lugar de tener que dominar). Estas posiciones permiten administrar la vacuna con cuidado. También puede entrenar, hablar o distraer a su hijo durante la vacunación; esto puede ayudarle a enfocar en otra cosa. Asegúrate de controlar tus propios sentimientos. Los niños se sienten más tranquilos cuando usted está tranquilo.

**ENVOLVER (PARA BEBÉS)**
1. Envuelva a su bebé
2. Saque la pierna en la que se administrará la vacuna

**PECHO A PECHO**
1. El niño se sienta en su regazo frente a usted
2. Envuelva las piernas alrededor de su cintura
3. El brazo de ellos puede pasar por debajo o de encima de su brazo

**ESPALDA A PECHO**
1. Sostenga al niño en su regazo de espaldas a usted
2. Coloca tus brazos sobre los suyos para sostenerlos como un abrazo

**SENTADÓ DE LADO**
1. El niño se sienta de lado en su regazo
2. Sujeta el brazo del niño con el tuyo
3. Sujeta sus piernas con las tuyas

La lactancia materna durante la vacunación también es estupenda!
RESOURCES

Planning a School-Based Vaccine Clinic:
- COVID-19 Vaccine Administration in Schools
- COVID-19 Reference (NASN)
- Checklist of Best Practices FOR Vaccination Clinics Held at Satellite, Temporary, or Off-Site Locations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- COVID-19 Vaccine-Patient Safety Checklist for Vaccination Clinics (CDC)
- COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Guidance for Providers (IDPH)

Additional Resources
- Interim Clinical Considerations (CDC)
- Webinar with Your Local Epidemiologist: Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Trials & Data (ICAAP)
- Illinois Vaccinates Against COVID-19 (I-VAC)
- COVID-19 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (CDC)
- Open office hours with a physician: Ask your COVID-19 vaccine implementation questions during these virtual office hours!
Use these COVID-19 social media images here

Sample messages

• Vaccines save lives.
• You’re not sure about getting more than one vaccine at a time - but, schedules are thought out and designed to protect children as soon as possible.
• Vaccines are one of the safest and best ways to protect people from dangerous and preventable illnesses.
• Make sure your child is up to date with all routine immunizations!
• Immunizations keep children in school where they can learn and have fun with friends.
• Help protect children by making sure you and your family are on schedule with recommended COVID-19 vaccines.
• We vaccinate to keep children and families safe from vaccine preventable illnesses.
• We vaccinate to keep children healthy and in school.
• We vaccinate to protect grandparents who are more likely to get seriously ill from COVID-19.
• Protect your family today.
• COVID-19 vaccines work with our immune systems to provide protection.
• COVID-19 vaccines are like a personal trainer for our immune systems.
• Vaccines are like the dress rehearsal in case our body comes into contact with COVID-19.

Or follow us and reshare our posts!

@illinoisaap
Dear Parent/Guardian,

[Insert school name] wants to see your child/children in person, in school, and able to do all the activities that make them happy. We care about the health of our students, families, and staff. For this reason, we hope that you will get yourself and your child/children (six months and older) vaccinated against COVID-19 and stay up to date (meaning you have gotten all recommended doses, including boosters) with your COVID-19 vaccines, if you have not done so already. COVID-19 vaccines are free, safe, and well-tested. They are the best way to protect your family from the harm we know this virus can cause.

To find a free COVID-19 vaccine near you:
- Go to vaccines.gov
- Text your ZIP code to 438829
- Call 1-800-232-0233

Students under the age of 18 must [insert directions for consent if needed/ school-based vaccination is available] consent for a COVID-19 vaccine.

We understand if you still have questions or want more information. We strongly encourage you to talk with your child’s doctor or contact [insert school contact] at [insert contact information]. Thank you for helping to keep our [insert school name] community safe!

Thank you,
[Insert name]