



Why Your Keiki Should Get the COVID-19 Vaccine

Common Questions Parents Have About the COVID-19 Vaccine

1. How do doctors know the vaccine is safe for keiki?

The vaccines have been studied and tested extensively for all age groups. The dosage is smaller for children than adults. Thousands of children 6 months and older were monitored for months during the preauthorization trials to ensure the vaccines are safe and effective.

In Hawaii, tens of thousands of children have been vaccinated and just like the preauthorization trials, no serious vaccine-related problems have been reported. **Source: CDC**

2. Why does my child need to be vaccinated against COVID-19?

Vaccination helps protect keiki from catching COVID-19 or becoming seriously ill when infected. It also helps protect vulnerable family members, including those who are not eligible for vaccination. COVID-19 vaccination also protects keiki at school and increases the safety of participating in sports and group activities. **Source: CDC**

3. Could my child suffer long-term side effects from the vaccine?

As many as 1/3 of those infected with COVID-19 experience long-term side effects. Brain fog, cough, fatigue, breathlessness, and even mental health issues can affect youth who contract the virus.

Long-term side effects following any vaccination are extremely rare. If they occur, they typically happen within 6 weeks of vaccination. **Source: CDC**

4. What are the possible short-term side effects of the vaccine in children?

Your child may experience some short-term side effects, such as arm pain or redness/swelling near the injection site. After the shot, some children experience fatigue, headache, muscle pain or a slight fever. However, these are normal signs that their body is building protection against the virus. Side-effects usually go away within a few days. Many children report having no side-effects at all.

Source: CDC

5. Does the vaccine put my child at risk for myocarditis?

Myocarditis is most commonly caused by an infection in the body. COVID-19, the common cold, bacteria, or fungus can lead to myocarditis. The CDC is monitoring reports of myocarditis after COVID-19 vaccination. Instances of myocarditis after vaccination are rare. The CDC continues to recommend vaccinations for everyone ages 6 months and older. The known risk of severe illness from COVID-19 far outweighs the potential risk of having a rare adverse reaction to vaccination including the possible risk of myocarditis. **Source: CDC**

Updated 10/21/2022



The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends COVID-19 vaccination for children ages 6 months and older.

Parents with questions are encouraged to talk to their pediatrician or visit aap.org.

Learn more & find a vaccination site near you at HawaiiCOVID19.com/vaccine.