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 for the 5-11 age group is 1/3 of the adult dose. About 2,250 children between ages 5-11 were monitored for months during the preauthorization trials. No serious vaccine-related health problems were reported.

In Hawai‘i, tens of thousands of children have been vaccinated since April 2022 and just like the pre-authorization 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 enables them to remain in school following an exposure 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. Pfizer’s clinical studies monitored children for at least two months after vaccination with no serious vaccine-related health problems reported. 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?
Although there have been some reports of myocarditis, or inflammation of the heart muscles, it is extremely rare compared to the hundreds of millions of COVID-19 vaccines given around the world. Extensive data show the benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks of rare reactions, such as myocarditis. Most patients with myocarditis recovered quickly and responded well to medicine and rest. Myocarditis is actually more common after contracting COVID-19 than after getting vaccinated. Source: CDC

More than 2 million children aged 5 to 11 have been infected with COVID-19 since the pandemic began.1 Sadly, more than 200 have died.2 As the virus spread, the proportion of cases in children has risen.

According to the FDA, the vaccine authorized for keiki aged 5 to 11 is 90.7% effective in preventing illness caused by COVID-19.3

1, 2 https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#demographics

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