Your child has likely received several vaccines in their lifetime. Those vaccines have protected them from typical childhood diseases such as measles, chicken pox and others. The COVID-19 vaccine works like those and is especially effective at preventing hospitalization and other serious outcomes.

Only the Pfizer vaccine is approved for anyone younger than 18, so please make sure to register at a site that offers that vaccine. When you make an appointment, you’ll search for a nearby site by entering a ZIP code. The type of vaccine the site is likely to have will be shown in the site listings.

The vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. It typically takes two weeks after vaccination for the body to build protection (otherwise known as immunity) against the virus that causes COVID-19. People are considered fully protected two weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine. You can resume activities that you did prior to the pandemic. Masking is still recommended in areas of substantial or high transmission.

COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to help us get back to normal.

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Vaccines will make schools safer.

Most children with COVID-19 have mild symptoms or have no symptoms at all, but they can be silent spreaders of the virus in school. Some children will get severely ill from COVID-19. They might require hospitalization, intensive care, or a ventilator to help them breathe. In rare cases, they might die. Help protect vulnerable students, teachers and staff by keeping up-to-date with your COVID-19 vaccinations.

What changes after vaccination:

- ✔ If you travel in the United States, you are not required to get tested before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.
- ✔ If you are up-to-date on your COVID-19 vaccinations, you do not need to quarantine if you’ve been around someone who has COVID-19 as long as you remain symptom-free and continue to wear a mask around others for 10 days after exposure.

Because transmission is currently so high, we recommend your child still take precautions such as wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet apart from others and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces. Experts are still researching things like how long the protection from the vaccine lasts and will update the guidance for vaccinated people as new information emerges.