



Frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 vaccine for 12 to 17-year-olds

(Updated 5-11-2021)

Beginning May 13 everyone age 12 and older is eligible to receive the Pfizer (Pfizer BioNTech) COVID-19 vaccine for free

Q1: Where can people get the Pfizer vaccine?

A1: Visit [OHA's webpage, How to Find a COVID-19 Vaccine in Oregon](#), or the CDC's website, [VaccineFinder.org](#) for information about how to find a vaccine appointment or to find a vaccination site with no-appointment shots. You can also schedule an appointment by calling the phone number on the vaccine provider's website or calling 211 (1-866-698-6155).

In addition, many communities are offering vaccination at school. Ask or search for information from schools and check the district's or school's website for vaccination availability.

Not all vaccine sites identify which vaccine is available. OHA is working to increase information about the type of vaccine that's available and [VaccineFinder.org](#) allows you to search by vaccine type.

OHA is working to expand the availability of the Pfizer vaccine so that anyone who wants to get vaccinated can access the vaccine that has been authorized for them.

Q2: Can more than one person be scheduled at the same time?

A2: Some vaccination sites require an appointment, and a parent or guardian may schedule multiple slots around the same time, one for each eligible person. Scheduling can be done through the vaccine provider's website or by calling the phone number on the vaccine provider's website or calling 211 (1-866-698-6155). Visit [OHA's webpage, How to Find a COVID-19 Vaccine in Oregon](#), or the CDC's website, [VaccineFinder.org](#) for information about how to find a vaccine appointment.

Q3: What are the side effects for youth?

A3: The possible side effects after receiving vaccine are the same in youth as they are in other people. Most people develop some soreness at the injection site. Fatigue and headache are common. Less common are muscle aches, chills, joint

pain, vomiting, or fever. This range of reactions is normal in response to receiving vaccine. Side effects are more common in youth and younger people than among older adults. Most resolve after a day or two.

Q4: Can my child get vaccinated at school?

A4: Many communities are offering vaccination at school. Information may be coming from the school. You can also check the district's or school's website for more information.

Q5: Can youth receive the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine?

A5: No. Currently the only vaccine that has received emergency use authorization by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in people under age 18 is the Pfizer (or Pfizer BioNTech) vaccine. Youth, parents or guardians need to search for appointments or walk-in services in locations that provide the Pfizer vaccine.

Q6: When will vaccines be authorized for the 2-11 age group?

A6: We don't know. Vaccines are authorized for emergency use by the FDA following review of an application by a manufacturer. At this point, no other manufacturers have applied for authorization for emergency use for persons under 12 years of age. The manufacturers are testing both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines in people under age 12 and might request authorization for use in this age group in the fall of 2021.

Q7: Do parents or guardians need to accompany their child to their vaccine appointment?

A7: It depends. Parental or guardian consent is required to vaccinate people 12-14 years old, but the parental or guardian consent requirement does not necessarily mean a parent or guardian must go with the youth to receive the vaccination. Written consent could be obtained in advance. You should contact the vaccine provider or vaccination clinic to determine whether a parent or guardian must be present.

Under Oregon law, minors 15 and older may give consent to receive medical treatment, including vaccinations, when provided by a physician, physician assistant, naturopath, nurse practitioner, dentist or optometrist, or other professionals operating under the license of these providers.

With the exception of pharmacies, most locations where COVID-19 vaccinations are provided have oversight by a medical provider on this list. In order to remove barriers to vaccination, OHA recommends that eligible locations not require consent from a parent or guardian to vaccinate someone age 15, 16, or 17.

Providers administering COVID-19 vaccinations to 15-17-year-old people should make it clear on their website, print materials and at the time a vaccine appointment is made whether consent from a parent or guardian is required and whether a parent or guardian must be present at the vaccination appointment.

Q8: What should people know before they show up for a vaccination?

A8: The Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective. The FDA requires rigorous safety testing before it will authorize any vaccine for emergency use. The COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer was tested in thousands of study participants and generated enough data to convince the FDA that the vaccine was safe and effective.

The COVID-19 vaccine is free. The vaccines are provided at no cost to you. You do not need health insurance. If you have health insurance, vaccine providers may charge your insurance company an administration fee for giving you the vaccine. This means that you might be asked for your insurance information when you get your vaccine. If you have health insurance or Medicare, be sure to bring your insurance card or red, white and blue Medicare card with you to your appointment.

Proof of eligibility or identification is not required. Vaccine providers may ask for proof of eligibility, identification, social security number, or health insurance information. It is up to you whether you provide that information, and it is not required to receive a vaccination. Vaccine providers may also ask if you live in Oregon or what kind of work you do. A vaccine provider should not refuse to give someone the vaccination based on their answers to those questions.

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