

Do children who have already had COVID-19 need to get the vaccine?

Yes, the vaccine will help protect children from getting COVID again.

- We know that people who have recovered from a COVID infection can still get infected again.
- Some people who have had COVID do not produce as many antibodies as they would get from the vaccine. They may not have protection from another infection.
- Research shows that the vaccine can still boost immunity after a COVID infection.
- The virus changes! There are variants to the virus, like Delta and Omicron, and the vaccine can help prevent you from catching those variants.
- Being vaccinated helps protect children against serious illness and hospitalization if they do get the virus.



Keep in mind:

- If a child or teen did not have symptoms (asymptomatic), but tested positive for COVID, they should still get the vaccine after the recommended isolation period has ended.
- If a child or teen tested positive after one dose of the vaccine, they should still get the second dose once the recommended isolation period has ended, and at least three to eight weeks have passed since the first dose. If greater than 12 years old, they should still receive the booster dose five months after receiving their second dose.*
- If a teen 12 years and older already received two doses of the vaccine and then tested positive for COVID, they should still get a booster after the recommended isolation period has ended if it has been at least five months since they received their second dose.*

*Certain moderately to severely immunocompromised adolescents 12 years and older may receive a second booster dose at least four months after their first booster. Talk to your pediatrician to see if this is right for your child.

Still have questions?

Ask your pediatrician! They can answer your questions and help you with your decision.

Adapted from HealthyChildren.org articles *If My Child Had COVID Do They Need the Vaccine?* (10/1/2021) and *Do kids who test positive for COVID still need the vaccine, and when can they get it?* (2/17/2022) (<https://healthychildren.org/English/tips-tools/ask-the-pediatrician/Pages/If-my-child-had-COVID-do-they-need-the-vaccine.aspx>, <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/tips-tools/ask-the-pediatrician/Pages/When-and-why-will-kids-need-a-COVID-shot-or-booster-if-they-have-tested-positive-.aspx>)

This resource is supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 6-NU380T000282-03-05, funded by the Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support National Partnership Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Brought to you by:

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®