

## Valley Medical Center

### COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ (12- to 15-year-olds)

**Q: Should my 12- to 15-year-old get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

**A:** The COVID-19 vaccine is our best tool to help end the pandemic. We know that children can be infected by, get sick from, and spread the virus that causes COVID-19. Like adults, children who have COVID-19 but with no symptoms (“asymptomatic”) still can spread the virus to others. We also know the vaccine has proven to be very effective in protecting this age group (12- to 15-year-olds) against the virus. We encourage you to speak with your primary care provider if you have questions or concerns about the vaccine.

**Q: When was the COVID-19 vaccine authorized for emergency use for 12- to 15-year-olds?**

**A:** The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was authorized for emergency use with 12- to 15-year-olds by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on May 10, 2021.

**Q: Where can I make a vaccine appointment for my child?**

**A:** Valley Medical Center is currently scheduling appointments for 12- to 15-year-olds by phone or MyChart. Call 425.690.3630 between 7 AM - 4 PM, Monday - Friday to make an appointment. More details are on the [Vaccine Public Advisory webpage](#).

**Q: Is adult consent required for my child to receive the vaccine? How does this work?**

**A:** Yes, consent by an authorized adult is required for vaccination of all 12- to 15-year-olds. The consent form is [available here](#) to print, complete, and sign by the child’s parent or guardian to bring to the vaccine appointment. Forms will also be available for the parent or guardian to sign for their child at the vaccine clinic.

**Q: Who may provide consent for my 12- to 15-year-old to get the vaccine?**

**A:** Authorized adults who may consent for minors include:

- **Adult who has court permission to make healthcare decisions for the minor** (legal guardian, custodian, out-of-home placement order)
- **Parent** (unless court order is provided to Public Health which deprives the parent of ability to consent)
- **Alternative caregiver** (a competent adult to whom a parent has granted written permission to make healthcare decisions for the minor)
- **Kinship caregiver** (a competent adult relative representing self as responsible for the minor’s healthcare)
- **Special rule for homeless children** (consent may be obtained from a school nurse, school counselor, or homeless student liaison for necessary, non-emergency care such as vaccination where the child is not under the care of a parent, custodian, guardian, or DCYF)

**Q: Which of the COVID-19 vaccines are authorized for emergency use for 12- to 15-year-olds?**

**A:** Right now, only the Pfizer vaccine has been authorized for this age group.

**Q: Is the vaccine one or two doses for 12- to 15-year-olds?**

**A:** Two. The second dose should come 21-42 days after the first.

**Q: Is the vaccine safe for kids?**

**A:** Early clinical trials have found no serious safety concerns with the vaccine among 12- to 15-year-olds. Studies are ongoing for children younger than 12.

**Q: What are the side effects of the vaccine on 12- to 15-year-olds?**

**A:** Very similar to those for young adults, with the most common being a sore arm and mild flu-like symptoms, especially after the second dose. These symptoms might include pain, body aches, chills, and fever.

**Q: How effective is the vaccine in 12- to 15-year-olds?**

**A:** It appears to be very effective. Pfizer announced in late March that a clinical trial with 2,260 participants ages 12 to 15 showed “100% efficacy and robust antibody responses” – an even better result than in young adults.

**Q: When is my child considered “fully vaccinated”?**

**A:** Two weeks after receiving their second dose.

**Q: Will my child need to be vaccinated before returning to school in the fall?**

**A:** You should refer to the latest guidance from your local school district as to what it may or may not be requiring of students moving forward.

**Q: If my child already had COVID-19 infection, do they need to get vaccinated?**

**A:** Yes. While natural immunity offers some protection, we do not know how long it lasts. Getting vaccinated remains the most effective way of preventing serious cases of COVID-19 and reducing the spread of the virus in our community.

**Q: Does my child still need to wear a mask after receiving the vaccine?**

**A:** Once vaccinated, we recommend all children and adults follow the [CDC guidelines](#) for fully vaccinated people.

**Q: Can the COVID-19 vaccine be given to my child at the same time s/he receives other vaccines – e.g., during an annual wellness exam?**

**A:** No. The CDC currently recommends taking the COVID-19 vaccine series alone with a space of at least two weeks before and after receiving it.