

# COVID-19 Vaccination in Shelby County

## Public Vaccination Locations

The city of Memphis is now operating public COVID-19 vaccination Sites, Mondays – Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

## To make an appointment, visit:

[covid19.memphistn.gov](https://covid19.memphistn.gov)

Only individuals who meet the eligibility criteria will be vaccinated.

Individuals without internet access can call

**901-222-7468(SHOT)** or **615-552-1998**

between the hours of 9 a.m.- 6:30 p.m.

Seven days a week.

## For more information, visit:

[www.shelby.community](https://www.shelby.community)

For outside Shelby County, visit your local health department's website for COVID-19 vaccination information.

# FAQ: COVID-19 Vaccine for Ages 12 & Older

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in adolescents ages 12 and older. Below is information from Le Bonheur's infectious disease experts on some of the most common questions from parents in response to this news.

## **Q: What's the latest on vaccines for kids?**

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is now available for adolescents 12 and older. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is already available for teens 16 and older.

## **Q: What are the side effects?**

During clinical trials, side effects in 12-15 year olds were mild and very similar to those in the 16-25 age range: soreness at the site of injection, fever, body aches and chills that typically only lasted a day or two after getting the vaccine. Just as with adults, it typically takes two weeks after receiving the second dose to build protection (immunity) against COVID-19.

## **Q: If my child already had coronavirus, should they still get a vaccine?**

For adults, vaccination has been recommended in individuals who have previously had COVID-19. Although reinfection is rare, it can occur and immunity provided by vaccination is much more potent and long-lasting than from natural infection. Vaccine immunity also appears to provide better protection against coronavirus variants that are present in the U.S. and around the world. While we don't have specific data on this for children, the FDA will likely recommend vaccination even among those who have been infected previously. Some people have chosen to wait 90 days after natural infection to be vaccinated, but it is not harmful to be vaccinated after infection and it can be done at any time after infection.

## **Q: If my child had multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) as a result from COVID, should they get a vaccine?**

Because MIS-C is a rare condition, this is really unknown at this time. Since it is possible to be reinfected with this coronavirus, preventing reinfection is very important so parents of children who have recovered from MIS-C may choose to vaccinate their children.

## **Q: Where can 12-18 year olds receive the vaccine?**

Children will be able to receive the vaccine at the same public sites where adults currently receive the vaccine. Children will need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian to sign the consent form. Pediatricians are unable to stock the vaccine because Pfizer's vaccine is shipped in large cartons and requires an ultracold freezer for storage.

## **Q: Is this Pfizer vaccine for 12-15 year olds different from the one adults get?**

This vaccine is the same that adults have been receiving for many months and requires two doses for the best level of protection against COVID-19.

## **Q: Will schools require this vaccine for in-person attendance as they do for many other vaccinations?**

Recommendations for specific vaccines come from the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP); however school vaccination requirements come from individual state governments. This is something each state will have to grapple with as the vaccine becomes available for younger age groups. Many universities are now requiring vaccination for students who are returning to in-person instruction in the fall. Schools have not been sources for large outbreaks of COVID-19.

## **Q: Should I call our pediatrician before I make an appointment for my child to receive a vaccine?**

You do not have to let your pediatrician know before you make an appointment for your children 12 years of age and older to receive the vaccine. Individuals who receive the vaccine have their doses entered into the state vaccine registry so your physician will be able to see if you have received the vaccine. You can also share a copy of your child's COVID-19 vaccine card with your physician the next time you see him or her. However, if you have any questions or concerns, it's always advisable to call your pediatrician for health care guidance.

## **Q: When will children younger than 12 be able to get a vaccine?**

Pfizer and Moderna have begun trials in children 6 months to 11 years of age. These studies are starting at Phase I, which is a study to find the optimal dose to produce the needed effect with the least side effects. Because younger children are smaller and their immune systems less mature, it is not known if the current adolescent/adult dose is the right dose, or if different doses are needed within this broad age group. After Phase I, they will then move on to Phases II and III where testing safety and efficacy. This will take a little longer to have results than the Phase III trial in adolescents so we might have to wait until late summer or early fall for enough data to be available for the FDA to review.