

# Childhood Vaccines

## Caregiver Information

At Eisner Health, your child's health is our top priority.



### What is the **COVID-19** vaccine, and who needs it?

The COVID vaccine protects against coronavirus disease. COVID most often causes respiratory symptoms that can feel much like a cold, the flu, or pneumonia but may attack more than your lungs and respiratory system. Most people with COVID have mild symptoms, but some people become severely ill.

- The COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for everyone ages 6 months and up.
- Children who already had COVID should still get vaccinated.
- Similarly to the flu vaccine, the COVID vaccine is an annual vaccine.
- Children who are moderately or severely immunocompromised may need additional doses of vaccine.



### How does COVID spread?

COVID-19 is spread when an infected person breathes out small droplets and particles containing the virus. These droplets can be breathed in by others or can land on their eyes, nose, mouth, or other surfaces.

**Anyone infected with COVID can spread it, even if they do NOT have symptoms.**



**I don't know anybody who has had COVID-19 recently.  
Does my child need this vaccine?**

**YES**

- COVID tends to spread in waves, and some people who are infected do not have symptoms.
- Over one million people have died from COVID in the United States.
- Vaccines have been shown to protect against COVID variants, and vaccinated individuals have a lower risk of severe disease if infected.
- Some people including those with minor or no symptoms will develop post-COVID conditions – also called “Long COVID.” The long-term effects of COVID are not well known yet.
- Schools with high vaccination rates are less likely to experience outbreaks, leading to fewer disruptions in learning and social development.
- Vaccinating children contributes to the overall health of the community, helping to protect those who cannot be vaccinated due to medical reasons, as well as older adults, and those who are immunocompromised.

The reason you may not hear about COVID-19 as much now is because so many people are vaccinated against it. If we stop vaccinating against COVID, it can spread more quickly and impact people severely.

## **Receiving vaccines is an important part of a child's health.**

Vaccines give your child the antibodies they need to fight off serious diseases. As a parent or caregiver, we want you to feel confident about making the choice to protect your child.

**Please talk with your provider if you have any questions about vaccinations.**



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