Why Should Adolescents Get Vaccinated for COVID-19?

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a new disease, requiring new vaccines.

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is safe for adolescents age 12 or older. In a clinical trial, it was 100% effective against symptoms, and it’s the best way to protect our children—both in and out of school. I encourage everyone who is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine to get vaccinated as soon as they can.

- Dr. Sabina Holland, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Specialist at Hasbro Children’s Hospital and Bradley Hospital

COVID-19 vaccines save lives

All three COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in the United States—Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)—worked very well in large clinical trials.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe

Most people have an immune response or mild side effects, like a sore arm or headache, from the COVID-19 vaccines.

Severe side effects from the COVID-19 vaccines are extremely rare. A small number of people have reported rare conditions that cause heart inflammation (swelling) after getting the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. It is unclear if these conditions are caused by the vaccines. Most cases were in young males, and most patients who got care recovered well.

More than 170 million people age 12 or older across the US have been fully vaccinated as of August 23.

The vaccines cannot give you COVID-19. The vaccines do not affect anyone’s ability to get pregnant or have a baby. They have been shown to be safe and effective during pregnancy. They cannot change your DNA. Even if you’ve had COVID-19, you should still get vaccinated to protect yourself against other variants.

More than 1.3 million COVID-19 shots have been administered in Rhode Island as of August 23.

More than 50,000 Rhode Islanders age 12-18 have gotten at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, as of August 23.
COVID-19 vaccines are based on decades of science and work

Researchers around the globe came together to develop COVID-19 vaccines quickly because so many lives were at stake. They did not skip any steps studying and testing the COVID-19 vaccines.

COVID-19 vaccines are free for all people in Rhode Island

The vaccines cost nothing. You do not need insurance. You do not need to give information about immigration status.

Vaccine appointments are offered near most neighborhoods. Visit health.ri.gov/vaccinesites to find a COVID-19 vaccination site near you.

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No pork products, DNA, or fetal cells are in the vaccines.

You can choose which COVID-19 vaccine you get when making a COVID-19 vaccine appointment. Visit C19vaccineRI.org to learn more.

There are more than 180 places to get vaccinated across Rhode Island.

You can get help finding a clinic, getting transportation, and scheduling an appointment in multiple languages by calling 844-930-1779 or 211. If you cannot leave your home, you can get someone to bring the vaccine to you by visiting C19vaccineRI.org.

Why Should Adolescents Get Vaccinated for COVID-19?

The more people who get vaccinated, the more likely the pandemic will come to an end. If all Rhode Islanders get vaccinated when it’s their turn, we can get back to living our lives with family, friends, work, school, and fun. Your adolescent’s shot gets us one step closer.

“Our teenage sons wanted to be able to play sports and socialize with their friends, and the only way to do that safely was to get them vaccinated. We got them vaccinated as soon as we were able to do it. Now we feel better about letting them see their friends at their houses without masks, and Greg’s baseball team is going into the playoffs!”

- Maria Wah-Fitta, East Bay

It’s okay if you still have questions. Talk to a trusted healthcare provider. Visit C19vaccineRI.org to learn more. Email RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri.gov or call 401-222-8022 for any COVID-19 questions.

Hear more about the COVID-19 vaccine from community leaders at bit.ly/vaxRicommunity.