FAQS ON
COVID VACCINATION FOR CHILDREN

#VaxathonJunior
#IndiaFightsCorona

Just as in adults, the COVID-19 vaccine can protect children from getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. Now, with the development and availability of vaccines for children, multiple questions are certain to raise in any parent's mind. We hope this brochure helps in answering all your questions.

Q1. Which vaccines are available in India?

At present ZyCoV-D by Zydus Cadila is the only vaccine that has got approval by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI). This is a DNA vaccine, which has been approved for usage in 12–17 year old children. Another vaccine that has claimed its safety in children is Bharat Biotech's Covaxin. The subject expert committee of the Central Drugs standard control organisation has recommended its Emergency Usage Authorization in children aged 2-18 years. Covaxin is India's first indigenous whole-virion inactivated vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Medical Research Council and the National Institute of Virology. The vaccine is however yet to receive approval by the DCGI for full usage in toddlers and children.

Q2. What is the dosage of vaccination needed in children?

Just like vaccines in adults, in children too, different vaccines would require different dosages and administration frequencies. As per the tests that have been conducted for the efficacy of vaccines, ZyCoV-D would need to be administered in three doses, the second and third dose to be given after a gap of 28 and 56 days respectively.

For Covaxin, the experts claim that once available this vaccine will need to be administered in children in two doses at a gap of 28 days.

Q3. Has the safety of vaccines been tested? How?

Yes, the safety of vaccines has been tested. Any drug or vaccine which is to be administered in humans for medical usage goes through phases of clinical trials before they are approved to be safe. Such trials are divided into stages, where first such a chemical is tested in animal models, followed by a smaller and larger population of humans. In each such trial, the safety uses and the side effects of the chemical are determined. Upon being subjected to trials ZyCoV-D has exhibited robust immunogenicity, tolerability, and safety profile. All the clinical trials have been monitored by the Independent Data Safety Monitoring Board. Covaxin has also conducted its clinical trials for the age groups 2-6, 6-12, and 12-18 and is now awaiting approval by the Drugs Controller General of India to become authorized to be used in children of that age range.

Q4. Why do children of age group 2 years or older need to be vaccinated?

Children form a large number of our population. Children who get COVID-19 can get very sick and may even require hospitalization. Also, younger school-aged children who get infected can spread the disease in their households and school settings. Now, with many children back in school and participating in extra-curricular activities, COVID-19 vaccination is critical in preventing the infection and serious illness caused by it. To protect them and control the pandemic completely, children need to get vaccinated against the virus.

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Q5. Can the vaccine cause any adverse effects?

Based on data from the clinical trials that have been conducted to determine the safety of vaccines, it has been found that children may have some side effects from COVID-19 vaccination. These side effects can be similar to what adults have experienced and the side effects that many children experience after a routine vaccination. This may include fever, pain at the site of injection, and malaise most commonly. These side effects are normal signs that their body is building protection, and they should go away in a few days. Some children may not have any side effects. Serious side effects are rare but may occur. It is recommended that one meets their pediatrician especially if the child has any obvious acute or chronic illness. The benefits of Covid vaccination outweigh any potential risks.

Q6. Children are less likely to get Covid illness as severe as adults. Why do they still need to get vaccinated?

A COVID-19 vaccine can prevent your child from getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. In case a child gets infected with COVID, the vaccine could prevent him or her from becoming severely ill or experiencing short-term or long-term complications. Children with other health conditions, such as obesity, diabetes, and asthma, might be at higher risk of serious illness with COVID-19. Getting your child vaccinated can also help your child participate more freely in school and more safely have playdates or other group activities.

Q7. Can Children get COVID-19 by getting the COVID-19 vaccine?

No, the COVID vaccine is known to provide protection against COVID-19 infection and doesn't cause it.

Q8. Are there any children who shouldn't receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

Every child above 2 years can take COVID-19 vaccine despite their pre-existing immune status, except children who develop severe reactions after the first dose of covid vaccination.

Q9. Will vaccination against COVID provide long-term protection to children?

Since COVID vaccines have been developed only recently, it is still very early to know the duration of protection they will provide against the disease.

Q10. Will children need to take precautions even after getting vaccinated for COVID-19?

Yes, following precautions is a must even after one gets vaccinated against COVID. No vaccine is 100% effective and COVID infection is still possible in anyone who is vaccinated against the illness. Besides, there are many variant strains of COVID and for some of them, the vaccine may not provide complete protection. Thus, to keep your child and others safe, one must still encourage them to follow all precautions even after vaccination to reduce the transmission of viral load. Following good hand hygiene and maintaining a safe social distance in crowded places, covering one's face while coughing or sneezing and usage of a mask for older children, especially in lesser ventilated spaces is recommended for complete protection.

Ankura Hospital for Women & Children

Our Centers

Kukatpally	:	JNTU, Hitech City Rd, KPHB Colony
Banjara Hills	:	ICICI Bank Lane, Road No. 12
AS Rao Nagar	:	Beside ICICI Bank
Boduppal	:	Opp. Big Bazaar
Madinaguda	:	Opp. Maangalya Shopping Mall
Balanagar	:	Opp. IDPL Colony, Adarsh Nagar
Mehdipatnam	:	Opp. Pillar No. 34, Rethibowli
LB Nagar	:	Opp. Pillar No. 1643, Kothapet
Khammam	:	Balaji Nagar, Telangana
Tirupati	:	Korramenugunta, Renigunta Road
Vijayawada	:	Besides Lalithaa Jewellery, PP Road

Edited by
Dr C Suman Kumar
MBBS, MD (Pediatrics), DAA (CMC Vellore)
Consultant Pediatrician
Ankura Hospital for Women & Children

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