



American Academy of Pediatrics
Orange County Chapter
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What Every Parent Needs to Know Before their Tween or Teen Gets the COVID-19 Vaccine

Can my child take their normal medications before the shot?

Yes. Your child should continue to take their normal medications as prescribed.

Can my child take acetaminophen, ibuprofen, or an antihistamine before the shot to offset any potential side effects?

No. It is best to avoid preventatively administering these medications – either before the vaccination or right afterward if no side effects are present – because there is a chance that they can decrease the immune response.

Do I need to accompany my child to the vaccination?

Yes. Anyone younger than 18 years must have a parent or legal guardian present to receive the vaccine.

What should we bring to the appointment?

Bring your child's photo ID, a document verifying your child's date of birth, and your child's insurance card. It would be helpful if your child wears a short-sleeved shirt because the injection is administered into the upper arm.

What should my child expect at the vaccine appointment?

(For CHOC's COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic): Upon your arrival, your appointment will be confirmed at the registration desk. The vaccine will be administered by pediatric nurses. After receiving the shot in the upper arm, your child will be monitored for 15 minutes to ensure no adverse reactions, or 30 minutes if your child has a history of any previous significant allergic reaction. Child life specialists, particularly adept with distraction techniques, and translators are available to assist.

Why does my child need to come back for a second vaccine?

Clinical trials have shown that the second dose helps to ensure the longevity of the protection your child will get from the COVID-19 vaccine.