

FACT

Vaccination of Teens and Young Adults – The Facts

Should I vaccinate my child? This is one of the most common questions surrounding the COVID-19 vaccines, and it's also becoming one of the most important. As the rates of hospitalizations and infections among young adults and teenagers reach record levels, parents are looking for reliable facts about vaccinating their kids.

FACT: Vaccines are strongly encouraged for all kids ages 12 to 18.

The vaccines can help prevent your child from spreading COVID-19 to others, which is particularly important for kids who interact with older relatives and other adults at risk for severe illness from COVID-19. They can also help keep your child from getting seriously ill if they do get COVID-19.

FACT: The delta variant is affecting young people more than the initial strain of the virus.

The COVID-19 delta variant is contributing to a surge of cases across the country and is infecting and hospitalizing many more young adults and teenagers than previous strains. The best way to protect the younger population from the delta variant is to get them vaccinated.

FACT: The vaccines are safe for your children.

Despite misinformation swirling on the internet, the COVID-19 vaccines have been used under the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history, which includes studies in adolescents. These studies and the data collected on those who have already received the COVID-19 vaccine show there is no evidence that the vaccine poses any serious risk to young people.

FACT: Your child cannot contract COVID-19 from getting the vaccine.

None of the vaccines being used in the U.S. contain a live virus, and therefore, they cannot infect anyone with COVID-19. As with vaccinated adults, vaccinated young adults and teenagers may experience mild, temporary side effects, but this is an indication of the immune response to the vaccination, not COVID-19.

FACT: The vaccines have zero impact on young adults' future fertility.

There is no evidence that female or male fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine will not affect the fertility of young adults or women who are seeking to become pregnant in the future, including through in vitro fertilization methods.

Schedule your vaccination appointment today through **the MyChart app** or by calling **(985) 898-4001**. Visit StTammany.health/COVID19 for more information on COVID in our community. For additional COVID-19 information and resources, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov) or the Louisiana Department of Health (ldh.la.gov) website.

