

# Individuals 16 years and older are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine starting March 31

Here is what you need to know:

## These vaccines will help keep your child safe.

Your child has likely received several vaccines in their lifetime. Those vaccines have protected them from typical childhood diseases such as measles, chicken pox and others. The COVID-19 vaccine works like those and is especially effective at preventing hospitalization and other serious outcomes.

Only the Pfizer vaccine is approved for anyone younger than 18, so please make sure to register at a site that offers that vaccine. When you make an appointment, you'll search for a nearby site by entering a ZIP code.

The type of vaccine the site is likely to have will be shown in the site listings.



Get the facts about the Pfizer vaccine. Point your smartphone camera at the QR code to learn more.

## COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to help us get back to normal.

The vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. It typically takes two weeks after vaccination for the body to build protection (otherwise known as immunity) against the virus that causes COVID-19. People are considered fully protected two weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer.



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## Vaccines will make schools safer.

It is true that kids often have milder, less serious cases of COVID-19, but they can be silent spreaders of the virus in the school setting. Unvaccinated students run the risk of unknowingly transmitting COVID-19 to older teachers, coaches and staff at risk of more severe disease.



## What changes after vaccination:

- ✓ You can gather indoors with other fully vaccinated friends and family without wearing a mask.
- ✓ You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- ✓ If you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms. *One exception: If you live in a group setting (like a dorm or group home), and your roommate has COVID-19, you should still stay away from others for 14 days and get tested, even if you don't have symptoms.*

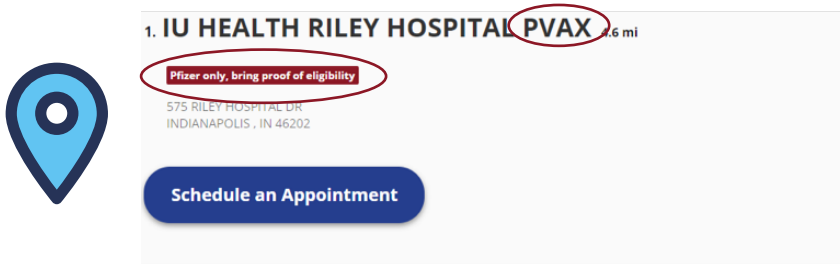
In public and at school, your child will still want to take precautions, such as wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet apart from others and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces. Experts are still researching things like how long the protection from the vaccine lasts and if it prevents you from giving the disease to other people and will update the guidance for vaccinated people as new information emerges.



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## How to register:

- 1 Go to [OurShot.IN.gov](https://OurShot.IN.gov) and find a vaccination site near you, or call 211 if you need assistance scheduling a vaccination.
- 2 Individuals age 18 and older can register to receive any type of vaccine available. Parents must register and give consent for a 16-year-old or 17-year-old and select a site that offers Pfizer vaccine. **This is the only vaccine approved for age 16 and 17.** You can do this by selecting sites labeled “**PVAX,**” as in Pfizer vaccine. Parents may either go with their child to the appointment or provide written authorization that the minor may receive the vaccine if unaccompanied.
- 3 Complete the registration fields and submit. You will receive a text or email confirmation. The vaccine is free, but please provide insurance information if you have it, as the insurance company may be charged an administration fee.



## After vaccination:

After your student gets the shot, he or she will be asked to stay for 15-30 minutes to monitor for reactions, which are rare. *Many people will have no side effects. Some may experience:*



- Pain or swelling at the injection site
- Headache
- Chills
- Fever (usually less than 100.4 degrees F)



*Call your doctor if the arm in which you got the shot feels worse after 24 hours or if your side effects do not go away after a few days.*

**The vaccine can't give you COVID-19.**



## The science behind the vaccines:

Coronaviruses, like the one that causes COVID-19, are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface called spike proteins. These spike proteins are ideal targets for vaccines. The Pfizer vaccine uses messenger RNA (mRNA), a genetic material that teaches your body how to make copies of the spike protein. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/3INOZS8>.



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