

# Vaccination Requirement for Staff and Participants FAQ

## What will a fully vaccinated camp experience look like?

Last summer our camp policies included pre-camp PCR testing, on-site rapid testing, masks, distancing, group pods, enhanced sanitation and hygiene, and a focus on outdoor programming. Crossroads hopes that requiring the vaccine will allow more freedom and flexibility this summer. The Crossroads team will continue to monitor COVID-19 regulations and data in order to develop informed policies ahead of the summer.

## What age can children get vaccinated?

In the USA COVID-19 vaccinations are currently widely available for people ages 5 and older free of charge.

## Why should children get vaccinated?

Children are as likely to be infected with COVID-19 as adults and can:

- Get very sick from COVID-19
- Have both short and long-term health complications
- Spread COVID-19 to others, including at home, school, and camp

## Can children get COVID-19?

In the USA there have been nearly 2 million cases of COVID-19 with children 5 - 11 years old.

## Does COVID-19 make children sick?

COVID-19 can make children very sick and cause children to be hospitalized. COVID-19 ranks in the top 10 causes of death for children aged 5 - 11 years since the start of the pandemic.

Children who get infected with COVID-19 can also develop serious complications like multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C)—a condition where different body parts become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs.

## Do vaccines work?

Studies show that COVID-19 vaccines are extremely effective, especially at keeping adults and children from getting seriously ill even if they do get COVID-19.

### **What about variants like Delta and Omicron?**

COVID-19 vaccines are effective at helping protect against severe disease and death from the virus that causes COVID-19, including known variants currently circulating (e.g., Delta and Omicron variants)

We don't know how effective current vaccines will be against new variants that may arise.

### **Are there side effects to COVID-19 vaccines?**

The benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks, which are rare.

### **Can COVID-19 vaccines give me COVID-19?**

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Vaccines cannot give people COVID-19. Side effects after vaccinations are normal and when experienced, should go away within a few days.

### **Can COVID-19 vaccines cause fertility problems?**

There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause fertility problems.

### **Can COVID-19 vaccines cause myocarditis?**

Cases of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the outer lining of the heart) have been reported after Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccination of children ages 12-17 years. These reactions are rare; in one study, the risk of myocarditis after the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech in the week following vaccination was around 54 cases per 1,000,000 doses administered to males ages 12-17 years.

In general, adolescents ages 12-17 years have a higher risk for myocarditis than children ages 5-11 years. During clinical trials, no cases of myocarditis occurred in children ages 5-11 years who received the COVID-19 vaccine.

### **Can vaccinated children carry COVID-19? What about breakthrough cases?**

People can carry COVID-19 after being fully vaccinated. However, infection only happens in a small proportion of these people, even with the Delta and Omicron variants. When these infections occur among vaccinated people, they tend to be milder than unvaccinated people.

### **Is it safe to give children COVID-19 vaccines?**

Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines. COVID-19 vaccines have undergone and continue to undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history, which includes studies about adolescents and children. This monitoring includes using both established and new safety monitoring systems to make sure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe.

Before recommending COVID-19 vaccination for children, scientists conducted clinical trials. The FDA gave the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine emergency authorization to use in children ages 5 years through 15 years old and full approval to use in people ages 16 years and older.

### **After vaccination what can I do?**

Widespread vaccination for COVID-19 is a critical tool to best protect everyone from COVID-19 and COVID-19 related complications. Based on what we currently know, children, teens, and adults who are fully vaccinated can safely resume activities that they stopped doing because of the pandemic.

### **When are people considered fully vaccinated?**

The current CDC definition of fully vaccinated at this time is: Regardless of age, health history, and any other status a person is fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after the second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

Crossroads requires all eligible staff, participants, and anyone else onsite to be fully vaccinated and to have had a COVID-19 shot within 6 months of attending camp, if eligible. Therefore, if it has been more than 6 months since getting fully vaccinated, a booster is required. The CDC currently recommends that everyone 18 years and older get a booster shot at least 6 months after completing a primary 2-shot Pfizer or Moderna vaccination series, or at least 2 months after receiving a 1-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccination. The Crossroads team will continue to monitor COVID-19 regulations and data in order to develop informed policies ahead of the summer.

### **Should I get a booster shot?**

COVID-19 vaccines generally remain very effective against severe illness and death. But over time, they do decrease in effectiveness against infection. Receiving a booster shot makes you less likely to get infected or experience mild illness from the virus.

Crossroads requires all eligible staff, participants, and any other persons to get a COVID-19 booster shot prior to arrival. The CDC currently recommends that everyone 18 years and older get a booster shot at least 6 months after completing a primary 2-shot Pfizer or Moderna vaccination series, or at least 2 months after receiving a 1-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccination. The Crossroads team will continue to monitor COVID-19 regulations and data in order to develop informed policies ahead of the summer.

Information provided by the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For more facts and information, please visit the following pages:

- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#)
- [Vaccines for COVID-19: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Boston Public Schools Vaccine Info](#)