

AAP Policy Statement on the COVID Vaccine for Children and Youth



MICHIGAN CHAPTER
American Academy of Pediatrics

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends the following related to COVID19 vaccine in children and adolescents:

- The AAP recommends COVID-19 vaccination for all children and adolescents 12 years of age and older who do not have contraindications using a COVID-19 vaccine authorized for use for their age.
- Any COVID-19 vaccine authorized through Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA, recommended by the CDC, and appropriate by age and health status can be used for COVID-19 vaccination in children and adolescents.



AAP Policy Statement on the COVID Vaccine for Children and Youth Continued

- Given the importance of routine vaccination and the need for rapid uptake of COVID-19 vaccines, the AAP supports co-administration of routine childhood and adolescent immunizations with COVID-19 vaccines (or vaccination in the days before or after) for children and adolescents who are behind on or due for immunizations (based on the CDC/AAP Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule) and/or at increased risk from vaccine-preventable diseases.



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What to do if a child or adolescent who is active in sports and/or physical activity tests positive for SARS-CoV-2?

- All children and adolescents who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 should notify their pediatrician. For a child or adolescent who is SARS-CoV-2–positive who is either asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic (<4 days of fever >100.4°F, <1 week of myalgia, chills, and lethargy) a phone or telemedicine visit with the pediatrician is recommended, at a minimum, so appropriate guidance can be given to the family. All individuals should be instructed on proper quarantine (duration and restricting exposure to other people within the house) and the importance of not exercising while in quarantine. The SARS-CoV-2 infection should be documented within the individual’s medical record.

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After testing positive for SARS-CoV-2, how should children and adolescents return to physical activity and/or sports?

- The AAP recommends not returning to sports/physical activity until children or adolescents have completed quarantine, the minimum amount of symptom-free time (as outlined above) has passed, they can perform normal activities of daily living, and they display no concerning signs/symptoms. All children younger than 12 years may progress back to sports/physical education classes according to their own tolerance. For children and adolescents 12 years and older, a graduated return-to-play protocol is recommended. The progression should be performed over the course of a 7-day minimum. Consideration for extending the progression should be given to children and adolescents who experienced moderate COVID-19 symptoms, as outlined above.

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Should my athlete be vaccinated?

- The AAP encourages all people who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it is available. Once athletes are [fully vaccinated](#) (as defined by the CDC), they should continue to follow transmission mitigation recommendations as described by the CDC for vaccinated people.

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When should face masks be worn?

- The risks and benefits of indoor sports, in addition to the current community prevalence of COVID-19, should be carefully considered when making decisions about continuing or resuming indoor sports. Face masks have been shown to decrease transmission rates of SARS-CoV-2, including in the context of indoor sports. Proper use of a face mask for all indoor sports training, competition, and on the sidelines is strongly recommended for people who are not fully vaccinated, except in the case where the mask bears a safety risk, as outlined below. Proper face mask use during indoor sports decreases risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission to rates as low as with outdoor sports.