

What happens after your child gets the COVID-19 vaccine?

Your child will have to wait at 20 - 30 minutes after vaccination so medical staff can check they do not have any serious allergic reaction.

Potential side effects

Like all medicines, the vaccine may cause side effects in some. These are common, and usually mild and do not last long.

Common side-effects:

After getting the vaccine, your child may experience common side effects such as:

On the arm where you got the shot:



- Pain
- Redness
- Swelling

Other Common Side Effects:



- Headache
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Fatigue
- Chills
- Fever

These are more commonly reported side effects of the Moderna vaccine. They are actually a sign that your child's immune system is learning to fight the virus. They don't last long and won't stop your child from having a second dose or going about their daily life. You can give paracetamol, ensure that the child is well hydrated and takes adequate rest. Take other steps at home to comfort your child. It is not recommended you give pain relievers before vaccination for the purpose of trying to prevent side effects.

The side effects show that the vaccine is working. If your child does not have any side effects after vaccination, it does not mean that the vaccine is not working. Different individuals react differently to vaccines.

Serious side-effects are very rare, however should be responded to immediately. If after a few days your child experience any of the following symptoms and signs, immediately seek medical care at your nearest health Centre/hospital:

- Chest pain • Shortness of breath • Feelings of having a fast-beating, fluttering, or pounding heart.

For further information on COVID-19 vaccination arrangement for children contact:

Vodafone numbers:

9906407 | 9906420

Digicel numbers:

7474272 | 7474273

For further information on COVID-19 vaccination arrangements for children and adults call:



PROTECT YOURSELF
FROM COVID-19



COVID-19 VACCINATION FACTSHEET

for Children Aged 15-17 years old



COVID-19 vaccination is one of the best and most effective ways we can fight the coronavirus pandemic to protect the health of the people and safeguard our communities.

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services recommends that children aged 15-17 years old receive the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to help protect against COVID-19.



COVID-19 vaccines are free and available to everyone in Fiji.

All vaccines work to protect an individual's health and prevent severe disease, hospitalization and death by working with the body's natural defenses to fight the virus, if they are exposed.

The COVID-19 vaccine works by triggering a person's immune system to produce antibodies that work against the COVID-19 virus.

It is important for children who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as it is an important step to ensuring that they are protected from the severe illness and hospitalisation from the virus.

After vaccination, ensure that your child along with everyone else in your family continues to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Frequently wash your hands with soap and water or sanitize with alcohol-based sanitizers, always wear a mask correctly particularly when going out, maintain physical distance of at least 2metres, avoid crowds and always cough or sneeze into your elbow and stay home if feeling unwell. This will help your child protect themselves, their loved ones and others.

Continue using the careFIJI app, turn on your phone's Bluetooth function.



SAFETY

The Fiji Medicinal Products Board has authorized the use of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in children aged 15-17 years old.

This decision is based on the approval given by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) following clinical trials for safety and efficacy of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in this age group.

In Fiji, so far the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine has been safely administered to target populations who were at high risk of getting severe COVID-19 such as those aged 60 years and above and people aged 18 years and above with rheumatic heart disease and other medical conditions.

Why has the vaccine been recommended for children aged 15-17 years old?



Evidence suggests that children are as likely to contract COVID-19 as adults.

Children with other medical conditions are significantly at a higher risk of serious COVID-19 disease, alongside other high-risk groups, and should be offered vaccination.

At this stage, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services will administer the Moderna COVID-19 vaccines to the children to enable their bodies to develop maximum protection against severe COVID-19. Protecting children from severe consequences of COVID-19 is important.

How many doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine does my child need?



Your child needs two doses for maximum protection. The second dose of the vaccine will be given 28 days after the first dose. To ensure that your child gets the best protection, make sure they get both doses of the vaccine. This vaccine does not give anyone COVID-19. The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine has an efficacy of 95% against symptomatic COVID-19 disease.

The date of the second dose for your child's vaccine will be provided on the vaccine card. You can take your child to the nearest vaccination venue for the second dose when it is due.

If your child has symptoms of COVID-19, stay at home and complete your 14 days of isolation. They can be vaccinated once they have recovered.

Things to consider before your child gets the COVID-19 vaccine

Does your child have a severe or immediate allergic reaction to any vaccine or injection in the past, please discuss this with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services team before vaccination.

It is also important to inform the health worker if your child has any medical conditions even though it might not affect them from getting vaccinated.



What do I need to register my child for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccination?

Parents/guardians can register the vaccine eligible child online via <https://vra.digitalfiji.gov.fj/>



For those who are not able to register online, registration services will be available at the vaccination site.



The parent or guardian accompanying the child for vaccination must bring a valid photo identification for registration on site.



The parent or guardian will be required to sign a consent form before the child gets vaccinated.



The date for the second dose of your child's COVID-19 vaccination will be provided in the vaccine card which will be given after your child's first dose.

