What to Expect at Your Child’s COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment

Before you schedule your child’s appointment, make sure they are at least 6 months old.

Wear a mask to vaccination appointments. If your child is 2 years or older, they should wear one too.

Stay at least 6 feet from patients and families who don’t live in your household.

You will be given a COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet and a prevaccination checklist for your child.

Carefully read the fact sheet to learn important information about the vaccine.

Complete the prevaccination checklist to help your child’s healthcare provider determine if there is any reason that your child shouldn’t get the COVID-19 vaccine that day.

Depending on the age of your child, they may receive their vaccine in their arm or their thigh.

During vaccination, be ready to support your child if they show signs of fear or anxiety.

Consider creating distractions for them or taking deep breaths with them to help “blow out” the pain.

Holding your child on your lap may also help reduce your child’s stress and help the vaccinator give the shot more easily.

After they’re vaccinated, your child will get a COVID-19 Vaccination Card. Keep the card in a safe place for future use.

When you get home, observe your child for a few days. If they develop mild side effects like arm pain or tiredness, don’t worry, that’s normal.

If you see something that concerns you, call your child’s doctor.

Enroll your child in v-safe, the after-vaccination health checker that you can get on your phone. Go to vsafe.cdc.gov.

Get free health check-ins and reminders when it’s time for their second dose,

and help CDC monitor the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine by reporting their side-effects.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus