

# Sickle Cell Disorders and COVID-19

Why my child needs a COVID-19 vaccine



Children and adolescents with sickle cell disease are more likely to become seriously ill. They could get hospitalized or die from COVID-19. It's important for adults to get the COVID-19 vaccine to protect children too young to get vaccinated.

## Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for adolescents with sickle cell disorders?

**Yes.** Pediatricians recommend the vaccine for all adolescents. It is important for those with sickle cell disorders since they are at higher risk for severe illness or death if they get sick with COVID-19. Even with mild COVID-19 infections, adolescents can be at risk for long-term health problems affecting the lungs, heart, or other parts of the body.

## Is the COVID-19 vaccine is safe?

**Yes.** Clinical trials with thousands of participants were reviewed by the United States Food and Drug Administration and showed COVID-19 vaccines to be safe and effective for adults and teens age 12 and up.

## Can the vaccine give my child COVID-19?

**No.** None of the current vaccines contain a live virus so the vaccine cannot give your child COVID-19.

## Are the vaccines' side effects worse for adolescents with sickle cell disorders?

**Probably not.** The most common side effects were pain at the injection site, headaches, fatigue, muscle pain, nausea, and fever. But COVID-19 symptoms are much worse than these relatively minor side effects. Some people can die from COVID-19.

## What can you do for children that are too young to be vaccinated?

- Ensure all other household members are vaccinated
- Maintain physical distance from others
- Wash hands often
- Wear a mask
- Avoid crowds
- Reduce travel
- Continue with sickle cell medical appointments and prescribed treatment

## Who should I contact with more questions?

- Primary Care Doctor
- Sickle Cell Disease Specialist

For more information, visit [covidvaccine.texas.gov](https://covidvaccine.texas.gov)