



Frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 vaccine for 16- and 17-year-olds

(Updated 04-09-2021)

Q1: When are 16- and 17-year-old people eligible for vaccine?

A1: Since December 2020, 16- and 17-year-old people have been receiving vaccines because they are medically fragile or have developmental disabilities, in custody of the Oregon Youth Authority, or living in other kinds of group homes or congregate care homes. Sixteen and 17-year-old people with underlying health conditions became eligible for vaccination on April 5. Everyone age 16 and older is eligible to be vaccinated beginning April 19.

Q2: Which vaccine can 16- and 17-year-old people be vaccinated with?

A2: Currently the only vaccine that has been authorized by the FDA for use by people under the age of 18 is the Pfizer (or Pfizer BioNTech) vaccine. Sixteen and 17-year-old people should look for appointments in locations that have access to the Pfizer vaccine.

Q3: Where can 16- and 17-year-old people get access to Pfizer vaccine?

A3: Visit [OHA's webpage, How to Find a COVID-19 Vaccine in Oregon](#), or the CDC's website, [VaccineFinder.org](#) for information about how to find a vaccine appointment. Not all vaccine sites tell you what kind of vaccine is available. OHA is working to increase information about the type of vaccine that's available and VaccineFinder.org allows you to search by vaccine type. There are some areas of the state where the Pfizer vaccine is not readily available. OHA is working to expand the availability of Pfizer so that anyone who wants to get vaccinated can access the vaccine that has been authorized for them.

Q4: Can I schedule more than one child at a time?

A4: Most vaccination sites require an appointment. If everyone is eligible to receive vaccine, scheduling can be done through the vaccine site. Visit OHA's webpage, [How to Find a COVID-19 Vaccine in Oregon](#), or the CDC's website, [VaccineFinder.org](#) for information about how to find a vaccine appointment. Not all vaccine sites tell you what kind of vaccine is available. OHA is working to increase information about the type of vaccine that's available and VaccineFinder.org allows you to search by vaccine type.

Q5: Can caregivers get vaccinated at the same place their child is vaccinated?

A5: On April 19, all people in Oregon are eligible to receive vaccine. Most vaccination sites require an appointment. If everyone is eligible to receive vaccine, scheduling can be done through the vaccine site. Visit OHA's webpage, [How to Find a COVID-19 Vaccine in Oregon](#), or the CDC's website, [VaccineFinder.org](#) for information about how to find a vaccine appointment. Not all vaccine sites tell you what kind of vaccine is available. OHA is working to increase information about the type of vaccine that's available and [VaccineFinder.org](#) allows you to search by vaccine type.

Q6: What are the side effects for people 16- and 17-years-old?

A6: The vaccine was tested on people 16–55 years of age. Most people develop some soreness at the injection site. Fatigue and headache are common. Less common are muscle aches, chills, joint pain, vomiting, or fever. These side effects are more common in the 16-55 age group than among older adults. The great majority resolve after a day or two.

Q7: Can my 16- or 17-year-old get vaccinated at school?

A7: Not at this time. OHA and the Oregon Department of Education are working on plans to communicate with people 16- and 17-years-old about vaccine availability. As vaccine becomes more accessible because there is more being produced and it's possible to make vaccine available in different locations, schools will continue to be partners in vaccine efforts, which could include vaccination opportunities.

Q8: When will youth and children under age 16 become eligible?

A8: Currently no vaccine has been authorized for people under the age of 16. Pfizer is expected to apply for authorization to administer vaccine to people 12 and older in the coming weeks. It is possible that by mid-summer, people age 12 and up would be able to be vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine.

Q9: When will other vaccines be authorized for this age group?

A9: We don't know. Vaccines are authorized by the FDA following review of an application by a manufacturer. At this point, no other manufacturers have applied for authorization for persons under 18 years of age.

Q10: Do parents need to accompany their child to their vaccine appointment?

A10: Under Oregon law, minors 15 and older may give consent to medical treatment, including vaccinations, provided by a physician, physician assistant, naturopath, nurse practitioner, dentist or optometrist, or others operating under the license of these providers, without the consent of a parent or guardian.

It is OHA's understanding that most locations where COVID-19 vaccinations are provided have oversight by a medical provider who would meet the definition of the provider types listed above, and therefore consent of a parent or guardian should not be required for a 16- or 17-year-old who wishes to get the Pfizer vaccine.

Providers administering COVID-19 vaccinations to 16- or 17-year-old people should make it clear at the time a vaccine appointment is made whether consent from a parent or guardian will be required.

Q11: What should 16 and 17-year-old people know before they show up?

A11: The Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective. The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) requires rigorous safety testing before it will authorize any vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer was tested in thousands of study participants and generated enough data to convince the FDA that the vaccine was safe and effective.

Vaccine supply is currently limited. Because of limited supply, not everyone will be able to receive one right away.

The COVID-19 vaccine will be free. The vaccines will be provided at no cost to you. You do not need health insurance. If you have health insurance, vaccine providers may charge your insurance company an administration fee for giving you the vaccine. This means that you might be asked for your insurance information when you get your vaccine.

Proof of eligibility or identification is not required. No need to bring proof of eligibility, identification, social security number or health insurance. Vaccine providers may ask if you live in Oregon or what kind of work you do.

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