



National Indian Health Board  
**NATIONAL TRIBAL  
COVID-19 RESPONSE**

910 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE | Washington, D.C. 20003 | 202-507-4070 | [www.nihb.org](http://www.nihb.org)

### Frequently Asked Questions for Tribal Parents and Expecting Mothers About the COVID-19 Vaccine

It is important for Tribal parents and expecting mothers to ask questions about their children's healthcare and understand the facts about the COVID-19 vaccine. Below are some frequently asked questions with answers to help guide a conversation with your child's Indian Health Service (IHS) or Tribal health system provider. For more information about how to protect your Tribal community please visit the National Indian Health Board [COVID-19 Tribal Resource Center](#).



Is it safe for my child to get a COVID-19 vaccine?



Yes, American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children 5 years and older are eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Like adults, children may have some side effects after the COVID-19 vaccination. These side effects may affect their ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.



Why should my child get vaccinated against COVID-19?



COVID-19 vaccination can help protect Tribal communities and AI/AN children from getting COVID-19. Getting your child vaccinated help to protect you community and family!



If I am pregnant, can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?



Yes, if you are a pregnant AI/AN, you CAN receive the COVID-19 vaccine! As always, consult with your IHS or Tribal health system provider to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine.

Although the overall risk of a severe COVID-19 case is low, pregnant AI/ANs are at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 when compared with non-pregnant AI/ANs.



Can breastfeeding AI/AN mothers receive a COVID-19 vaccine?



Lactating AI/AN mothers can receive a COVID-19 vaccine. However, there have not been completed studies specifically examining the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in lactating mothers, the effects of vaccination on the breastfed baby, and the effects on milk production or excretion.

Based on how these COVID-19 vaccines work in the body, they are thought not to be a risk to lactating AI/AN mothers or their babies. Recent

Reports have actually shown that breastfeeding mothers who have received a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (Pfizer and Moderna) have antibodies in their breastmilk, which could help protect the baby. More data are needed to determine the level of protection these antibodies provide to the baby.



If my child has already recovered from COVID-19, do I still need to get them a COVID-19 vaccine?



All AI/AN children over the age of 5 years are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of whether they have already recovered from COVID-19. Talk to your child's IHS or Tribal health system provider to learn more about protecting them with a COVID-19 vaccination. For information about the benefits of getting your child the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit the [CDC website](#).



This is not an exhaustive list of questions that you can ask your child's IHS or Tribal health system provider, but is meant to get the conversation started.

For more information, or to learn more about frequently asked questions, visit the [CDC website](#).

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>



Disclaimer: This fact sheet is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$2,000,000 with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily

For more information, visit NIHB's National Tribal COVID-19 Response page at [www.nihb.org](http://www.nihb.org)