

AUSTRALIAN DOCTOR **NEWS**

# Real-world Aussie safety data on COVID-19 vax for young kids 'reassuring'

Fewer than a third of parents report any adverse event after the Pfizer shot, feedback shows

🕒 2 minutes to read | 27th January 2022

By Antony Scholefield



The first Australian safety data on COVID-19 inoculation of 5-11-year-olds are in, and the figures show a lower burden of adverse events than for adolescents.

Just 2% of the recipients of Pfizer's paediatric Comirnaty vaccine missed school or couldn't participate in their normal daily activities after their first dose, according to follow-up data from more than 21,000 parents and carers.

This compares with a rate of 6% for 12-15-year-olds and a rate of 8% for 16-19-year-olds.

The data were compiled from a survey by AusVaxSafety, a project co-ordinated by the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) in Sydney.



## See the Dymista® difference in allergic rhinitis

About 29% of parents reported at least one adverse event, which was comparable to older children, but reporting rates for specific adverse events were lower.

The younger children were less likely than 12-15-year-old adolescents to report fatigue (12% vs 17%), headache (8% vs 13%) or muscle pain (5% vs 10%).

Local reactions — such as pain, swelling or redness — were more similar between the groups (25% vs 27%).

Four in 1000 younger children were taken to see a doctor after their first vaccine dose, compared with five in 1000 adolescents.

---

### Related:

- **[GPs abandon kids' vaccine program after anti-vaxxer campaign leads to death threats](#)**
- **[Should GPs vaccinate 12-year-olds against parents' wishes? Take our poll](#)**

---

NCIRS spokesman Associate Professor Nick Wood said the data on younger children “are extremely reassuring and are in line with what has been observed internationally”.

More than 760,000 children aged 5-11 have already received a first vaccine dose — over a third of all children who became eligible on 10 January.

Meanwhile, a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* this week has provided updated US estimates on the risk of myocarditis after mRNA vaccination.

The researchers from the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) found 1626 reports of myocarditis that met their case definition in the CDC's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, from almost 200 million vaccinated people.

More than 80% of myocarditis cases were in males.

The highest rate was in 16-17-year-old boys receiving their second vaccine dose — 106 cases per million doses.

This compared with 71 cases per million second doses for 12-15-year-olds and 52 cases per million second doses in 18-24-year-olds.

More than 95% of patients under 30 who had myocarditis were hospitalised, but symptoms for 87% of these patients had completely resolved by the time they were discharged.

One patient with probable myocarditis died, but there was not enough information to determine whether the condition was the cause of death, while two more deaths were still under investigation, the study authors said.

The CDC-calculated rates were broadly comparable to the rates published by the TGA, which were highest for second doses in 12-17-year-olds, at 112 per million.

---

### More information:

- [\*\*AusVaxSafety data; 16 January 2022.\*\*](#)
- [\*\*JAMA 2022; 25 Jan.\*\*](#)

---

**Got something to say about COVID-19? [Join AusDoc's new Coronavirus Group.](#)**

#### # Tags

[News](#)[COVID-19 vaccine rollout](#)[Coronavirus](#)[Infectious diseases - Immunisation](#)[Paediatrics](#)