

# CDC Data Show ‘Local and Systemic Reactions’ Were Reported in More Than Half of Children Following COVID-19 Vaccination

By [Jim Hoft](#) Published September 8, 2022 [Story source: Gateway Pundit](#)

Children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years experienced “local and systemic reactions” after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, according to [data from June 18, 2022, to August 21, 2022](#), released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC collected the information with the help of a program called [V-Safe](#), a smartphone-based monitoring system that functions with an app that parents download and use on their devices.

“This provides personalized and confidential health check-ins via text messages and web surveys so you can quickly and easily share with CDC how you, or your dependent, feel after getting a COVID-19 vaccine.”

According to the study, systemic reactions were more frequently reported after COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 6 months–2 years than for children aged 3–5 years. The most frequent reactions reported to v-safe for children aged 6 months–2 years included irritability or crying, sleepiness, and loss of appetite.

Review of the study:

During June 18–August 21, 2022, v-safe enrolled a total of 23,266 children. 4,749 children aged 6 months–2 years and 3,792 aged 3–4 years who had received Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and 8,338 children aged 6 months–2 years and 6,387 aged 3–5 years who had received Moderna vaccine. Most children (22,695; 97.6%) did not receive any other vaccine at the time of receipt of the first COVID-19 dose. The total Local and systemic reactions reported during the week after receipt of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines were most frequently reported on the day after vaccination. Local reactions were reported for 900 (19.0%) children aged 6 months–2 years and 1,078 (28.4%) aged 3–4 years after the first Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine dose and for 1,601 (19.2%) aged 6 months–2 years and 2,072 (32.4%) aged 3–5 years after the first Moderna dose.

Systemic reactions were reported for 2,649 (55.8%) children aged 6 months–2 years and for 1,220 (32.2%) children aged 3–4 years after receipt of the first Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine dose and for 4,647 (55.7%) children aged 6 months–2 years and for 2,204 (34.5%) children aged 3–5 years after the first Moderna vaccine dose. The most frequently reported reactions after receipt of either Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines among children aged 6 months–2 years were irritability or crying, sleepiness, and fever; among children aged 3–5 years, the most frequently reported reactions were injection site pain, fatigue, and fever. Most reports described reactions as mild to moderate in severity.

**TABLE 1. Adverse reactions and health impacts reported for children aged 6 months–5 years\* (N = 23,266) who received Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine — United States, June 18–August 21, 2022**

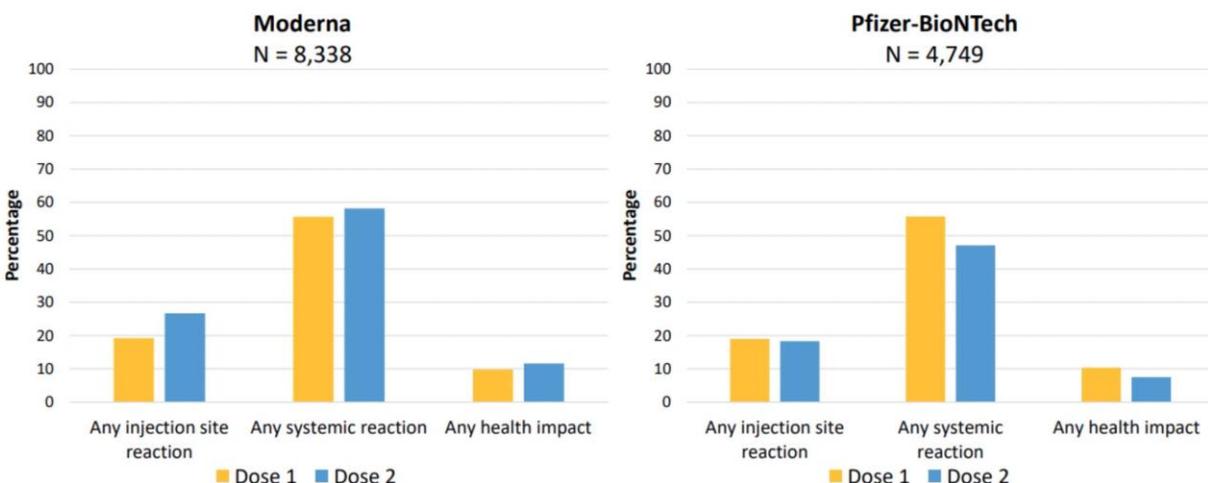
Event	Vaccine, age group, % reporting reaction or health impacts after vaccination <sup>†</sup>							
	Pfizer-BioNTech (N = 8,541)				Moderna (N = 14,725)			
	6 mos–2 yrs (n = 4,749)		3–4 yrs (n = 3,792)		6 mos–2 yrs (n = 8,338)		3–5 yrs (n = 6,387)	
	Dose 1 (4,749)	Dose 2 (2,467)	Dose 1 (3,792)	Dose 2 (2,060)	Dose 1 (8,338)	Dose 2 (4,288)	Dose 1 (6,387)	Dose 2 (3,549)
<b>Any injection site reaction</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>47.1</b>
Itching	NA	NA	1.9	1.5	NA	NA	1.5	1.7
Pain	13.7	13.3	24.7	23.4	14.2	19.9	29.1	43.5
Redness	5.6	6.3	4.9	5.3	6.1	8.8	4.5	8.1
Swelling or hardness	2.8	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.8	5.7	2.3	4.9
Groin or underarm swelling/tenderness	0.3	0.2	NA	NA	0.4	0.3	NA	NA
<b>Any systemic reaction</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>49.9</b>
Abdominal pain	NA	NA	3.5	3.4	NA	NA	4.4	6.3
Myalgia	NA	NA	4.8	3.6	NA	NA	5.0	9.7
Chills	NA	NA	4.0	2.8	NA	NA	3.6	7.7
Fatigue	NA	NA	20.1	19.6	NA	NA	22.9	33.2
Fever	18.7	13.8	12.1	10.9	19.7	27.2	13.5	30.6
Headache	NA	NA	5.0	4.0	NA	NA	5.2	8.7
Joint pain	NA	NA	1.6	0.8	NA	NA	1.0	1.5
Nausea	NA	NA	3.0	2.2	NA	NA	3.0	4.9
Diarrhea	6.7	5.3	4.4	4.0	6.3	5.9	4.3	3.8
Rash	4.9	3.2	2.4	1.4	4.4	3.6	2.2	1.9
Vomiting	3.8	2.8	2.9	2.3	3.6	3.8	3.1	4.1
Irritability/Crying	39.6	33.5	NA	NA	39.4	42.7	NA	NA
Loss of appetite	11.7	8.7	NA	NA	10.2	12.9	NA	NA
Sleepiness	25.8	20.9	NA	NA	25.9	28.5	NA	NA
<b>Any health impact</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>15.9</b>
Unable to perform normal daily activities	5.3	3.3	5.7	4.1	5.2	6.1	6.6	10.6
Unable to attend child care or school	5.9	4.4	5.6	4.4	5.7	6.5	6.2	7.8
Needed medical care	2.8	2.2	1.7	1.2	2.7	2.4	1.5	1.2
Telehealth	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5
Clinic appointment	1.6	1.3	1.0	0.7	1.8	1.5	0.9	0.6
Emergency visit	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
Hospitalization	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Abbreviation: NA = not applicable.

\* On June 17, 2022, the Food and Drug Administration amended the Emergency Use Authorizations for BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BioNTech) vaccine to include children aged 6 months–4 years and mRNA-1273 (Moderna) vaccine to include children aged 6 months–5 years. Safety findings for children aged ≥60 months (5 years) who received Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine have been previously described and were not included in this study.

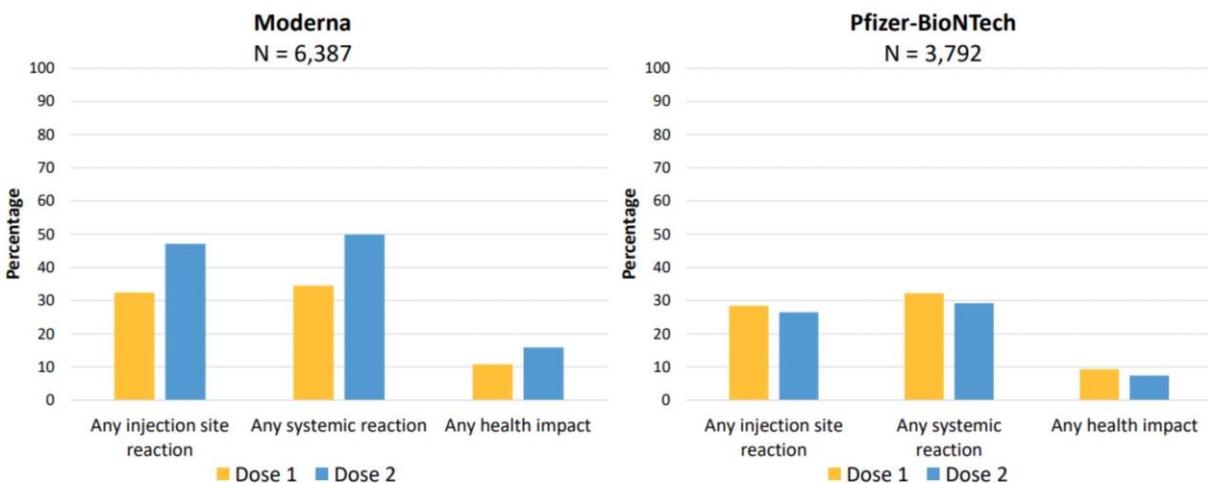
<sup>†</sup> Percentage of children whose parents reported a reaction or health impact at least once during days 0–7 post-vaccination. Health check-in surveys were unique for each age group (6 months–2 years and ≥3 years).

## Reactions and health impacts reported for children aged 6 months–≤2 years at least once in days 0–7 following COVID-19 vaccination, by dose



Parents of approximately 1,323 (5.7% ) and 803 (6.5%) of children aged 6 months–5 years reported that their child was unable to perform normal daily activities in the week after dose 1 and dose 2, respectively of either vaccine. Approximately 741 (2%) reported seeking medical care in the week after either dose; most medical care was received via a clinic appointment (450; 1.3%). Four children received care at a hospital after vaccination; two respondents indicated the hospitalization was unrelated to vaccination, one was unwilling to provide further information, and one completed a VAERS report.

### Reactions and health impacts reported for children aged 3–5 years at least once in days 0–7 following COVID-19 vaccination, by dose



Data as of August 21, 2022. Includes 3,792 children (aged 3–4 years) who received Pfizer-BioNTech and 6,387 who received Moderna (aged 3–5 years).

The data also showed a more serious reaction category labeled “any health impact.”

About 10 percent of all children 6 months to 2 years were [reported](#) to have a “health impact” after getting their first dose of either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine. For the Moderna vaccine, slightly more children had a health impact after the second dose; for the Pfizer vaccine, it was slightly less.

The information was presented to the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on Sept. 1 as part of an overview of all data related to the safety of COVID-19 vaccines.

In addition to V-Safe, data was presented summarizing reports from the [Vaccine](#) Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) and the Vaccine Safety Data Link (VSD), which includes data from several large health maintenance organizations in the United States.

All three systems look at the safety of vaccines after they’ve already gone to market and have been administered to large numbers of people.

Tom Shimabukuro, the head of the CDC’s vaccine safety team, headed the presentation and told committee members that no “statistical signals” of COVID-19 vaccine reactions were found for young children in the VSD data.

Shimabukuro also said that systemic reactions were “commonly reported” following vaccines.

However, other medical professionals such as Dr. Meryl Nass of Children’s Health Defense have expressed caution over the reported reactions, pointing to the high number of systemic reaction reports among very young children.

She told The Epoch Times on Sept. 2 that she was questioning why the government doesn’t collect and present more information on these cases.

“That stuff is not considered by the CDC to be very important ... It’s assumed that all those side effects go away after a few days and leave the people perfectly well,” she said, mentioning the fevers and fatigue. “Those reactions may, in fact, be harbingers of more serious reactions, but nobody to my knowledge has published anything looking at whether these acute local or systemic reactions are indicators of a later problem.”