

## VACC TO SCHOOL

*by:*  
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Limited face-to-face classes started, and the government considers vaccination to be a requirement for school opening. There are authorized vaccines for the pediatric population and some local government units require the student's and student household members' vaccination to participate in face-to-face classes. After two years of modular learning, face-to-face schooling was back as the covid-19 situation improves, and several questions are immerging in the minds of the parents and guardians. Are the school ready to open despite the ongoing pandemic? Are the students will be safe in the school? Are there enough facilities and medical supplies to promote safety and precautions in every school? What are the possible outcomes if the parents and guardians will not get their children the vaccine and booster shots? So many questions need to be clarified to engage and go back to face to the face learning system.

According to information from the Department of Finance and the National Vaccine Operation Centers, there will be sufficient supply to cover both the unvaccinated population and the adolescent population (using Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines). These vaccines also have the potential to reduce expenses among Filipino households since isolation and treatment of COVID-19 infections will likely be prevented. The survey by the DOH Health Promotion Bureau also shows that vaccination among adolescents is acceptable to the general population.

First, how does the COVID-19 vaccine works? It helps you to be protected and prevent severe symptoms of the virus, creating an antibody response without having to experience sickness and only some side effects after taking the vaccine. Being vaccinated doesn't make you will become immune to the virus, this only strengthens your immune

system against COVID-19 complications. As part of the global and national exit strategies against COVID-19, the Philippines began administering COVID-19 vaccinations to priority groups A1 to A5 (workers in frontline health services, senior citizens, people with comorbidities, frontline personnel in essential sectors, including uniformed personnel, and the indigent population) in March 2021. Countries all over the world, including the Philippines, have begun to prepare for the vaccine's expansion to the pediatric population following its introduction to the adult population.

As they launch pilot testing of face-to-face classes, the department of health on November 2021 begins the rollout of the authorized vaccines such as Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna for all 12 to 17 pediatric populations. In the 5 to 11 years of age group, Pfizer can be given with a lower dosage compared to the older age group, while the Philippines' Goods and Drug Administration has allowed Moderna for kids aged 6 to 11 but before it can be administered vaccines for the age group. The recommendation is a must from Health Technology Assessment Councils with the standard vaccinations ongoing. As of now, 8.5 million minors aged 12 to 17 years of age have been vaccinated while over 900,000 children aged 5-11 years of age have their first dose.

On the other hand, the government ensures the safety of both students, parents, and teachers as the Department of Interior and Local Government will be inspecting the schools before they can operate face to face class and will be granted a safety seal if it meets the minimum public health standard given from the Deped and DILG, Furthermore, it will be a great step to fully implement the Face-to-face classes and extra-curricular activities to promote learning to the students.

In all, we can see that we're progressing and healing from the pandemic. Different schools and offices are slowly catching up and lifting restrictions. Getting vaccinated will help people especially the elders, children, health workers, and the whole nation. It's good news to humanity that we are starting to go back to our daily lives normally, hoping that they will become better than we have experienced these past few years. So much has

changed, yet so much to retrieve. Vaccination is just a small tool that will be useful to begin but it is still to us how to consistently secure our future. The process and the work are still in our hands.

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