Answers to COVID-19 Questions for Families with Children, Birth – Age 5
What is the chance my child will get sick with COVID-19?

Children can get sick with COVID-19, but their symptoms are usually less than adult symptoms.

If your child is with someone who has COVID-19, your child may get sick.

It is important for children not to be with people who are sick with COVID-19.
My child has other health problems. Is there a bigger chance that he or she will get sick with COVID-19?

We don’t know yet if children with other health problems (like asthma) have a bigger chance of getting sick with COVID-19. Some children with other health problems may get sick and need to go to the hospital if they get COVID-19.

It is important for children not to be with people who are sick with COVID-19.
Can I give COVID-19 to my child?
Can my child give me COVID-19?

Yes, parents can give their children COVID-19, and children can give their parents COVID-19.
How will I know if a child or adult has COVID-19 if he or she doesn’t have any symptoms?

You won’t know. Some people have COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms.

This is why it is important to wear a face mask and stay 6 feet away from other people when you leave your house.
What should I do if a person in my home has COVID-19 symptoms?

If a person in your home is sick with COVID-19, it's best if someone else outside the home cares for your child.

If this is not possible, everyone should wear a face mask in the house. Everyone should also wash their hands frequently for 20 seconds with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. The house should be kept as clean as possible.

Watch your child closely for symptoms like fever, sore throat, cough, diarrhea, or loss of taste or smell. Call the doctor if you or your child are sick.
What should I do if my child has symptoms of COVID-19?

If your child is sick, call your child’s doctor. The doctor will help you decide what to do.

Tell your doctor on the phone if you or your child has fever, cough, sore throat, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell.

If your child is very sick, take your child to the emergency room. Call before you go to tell them you are coming. Hospitals are very safe and are working hard to prevent COVID-19.

Wear a face mask if you go to the doctor. Your child should wear a face mask if he or she is 2 years and older.
Should my child wear a face mask in public?

Yes, if your child is 2 years or older, he or she should wear a face mask in public, just like parents do. Children under the age of 2 should NOT wear a face mask.

Masks should be worn in public places where your child is likely to come within 6 feet of another person, like in a grocery store. If you are at home or in a place where you can stay 6 feet from other people, you and your children do not need to wear a face mask.
How can I get my child to wear a face mask in public?

It may be hard to get your small child to keep a face mask on. Keep trying! You can set an example by wearing a face mask yourself.

Give your child a lot of praise for wearing his or her face mask. You might reward your child with a healthy treat or let him or her pick out a fun sticker.
Should my child stay 6 feet away from other people?

Yes, your child should stay at least 6 feet away from people who do not live in your house.
Can family who do not live with us hug and kiss my child?

No. Your child should stay at least 6 feet away from people who do not live in your house.

If a person is going to be with your child, he or she should wear a face mask. People should wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before touching your child.
Can grandparents and older relatives still come visit?

It is not a good idea. Grandparents and older relatives should not visit children at this time.

Older adults are the most at risk for COVID-19. Your child should stay at least 6 feet away from people who do not live in your house.

If grandparents come over, try to stay outside and not in the house.
Is childcare safe?

It depends on many things. You may need childcare so you can go to work. You may not have anyone at home to watch your child.

Talk with your childcare provider to make sure they have a plan in place to keep your child safe.

You can read more about the current guidelines for preventing COVID-19 in childcare facilities here: http://www.decal.ga.gov/
Is childcare in my home or someone else’s home safe?

It depends on many things. You may need someone to take care of your child so you can go to work or go to the grocery store.

If this person has any symptoms or has been exposed to anyone with COVID-19, you should find someone else to take care of your child.

Whoever watches your child should wear a face mask and wash his or her hands with soap and water when taking care of your child.
Can I take my child to the park?

Yes. Being outside and staying active is a good idea. Bring your own toys and stay 6 feet away from other people. Playgrounds are not good places to go because the play equipment is not regularly cleaned.
Can my children go outside and play with other children who live in my apartment complex?

No, it is best to avoid other children outside of your home.
If children play in groups, they should stay 6 feet away from each other.

Children should not have playdates with children from other homes.
If your child has a playdate, it should be outdoors. Children over 2 years old should wear a face mask. **Children should not share face masks with each other.**

Your child should wash his or her hands for 20 seconds with soap and water when they come back into your house.
Is it safe to take my child on public transportation?

No, it is best not to take your child on a public bus, train or taxi.

If you have to, it is important to protect yourself and your child. Wear face masks, stay 6 feet away from other people, use hand sanitizer, and do not touch surfaces. Adults and children 2 years and older should wear face masks.
Can we travel out of town?

No, it's best to stay in town and do not travel on public transportation including buses, trains, taxis or airplanes. If you are thinking about traveling, talk to your doctor for safety tips.
Should I take my child to get immunizations and for regular doctor visits?

Yes, it is important to take your newborn, toddler, or young child to well-child visits. Children need to get immunizations to stay healthy.

Wear a face mask and stay 6 feet away from other people.

Tell the doctor if you or your child have fever, cough, sore throat, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell.
Should I get my child tested for COVID-19?

It depends. Talk to your child's doctor about testing. He or she can help decide if testing is needed.