

PEDIATRIC (5-11) VACCINE FACT SHEET



DOES MY CHILD NEED TO GET VACCINATED?

Yes. With newer variants emerging, we are seeing more cases of children with COVID-19. The fact is, we can't predict which children will become severely ill or have long-term effects from COVID-19. There have also been 17 deaths of children due to COVID-19 in Canada. Health Canada approved vaccines for children ages 5-11 on November 19, 2021.

HOW DO I KNOW THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS SAFE FOR MY CHILD?

Canada's [vaccine approval process](#) is among the most rigorous in the world. Health Canada only approves a vaccine if clinical trials show the vaccine is safe and effective and that the benefits of the vaccine outweigh any risks. The Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine was tested in children aged 5 to 11 through clinical trials that included more than 3,000 children. The clinical trials found no safety issues and found the vaccine provided strong protection against COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11 is very safe, and is the best measure in protecting children and their families.

ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS FROM THE PEDIATRIC VACCINE?

Like with all vaccines, most common reactions occur because the immune system is responding to the vaccine. Some common side effects include the usual pain and redness at injection. Side effects that have been reported by adolescents, such as headaches, muscle cramps, and fever or chills, are not as common in children ages 5-11. Serious side effects are very rare. If you are worried, contact 811 or your healthcare provider.

WHERE CAN I GET MY CHILD VACCINATED?

Children aged 5-11 will only be able to go to clinics offered by health authorities. At this time, places like schools and pharmacies will not be carrying the pediatric vaccine. Parents can register their children now through the provincial [Get Vaccinated System](#) and you will be notified when you can book an appointment for your child. For updates on pediatric clinics in your area, visit our [COVID-19 Support Centre](#) and follow the [First Nations Health Authority](#) and [Carrier Sekani Family Services](#) on Facebook.

HOW OLD DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO BE TO GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

As long as your child is five years old at the time of registration, they will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. If your child is four years old, you will have to wait until they turn five.

WHAT COVID-19 VACCINE WILL CHILDREN GET AND IS IT THE SAME DOSE AS AN ADULT WOULD GET?

Children in B.C. who are 5 to 11 years of age will be offered a Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine made for children their age. The vaccine for children is a smaller dose than the vaccine for those aged 12 and over. This is because young children from 5 to 11 years old have a stronger immune system than youth and adults.

HOW MANY SHOTS WILL MY CHILD NEED?

Much like the vaccine that ages 12 and up have been receiving, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization is recommending children ages 5-11 receive two doses of the vaccine at least eight weeks apart.

WHO CAN PROVIDE CONSENT FOR CHILDREN TO BE VACCINATED?

Parents and guardians (including foster parents and prospective adoptive parents) are able to provide consent to get their child vaccinated. Only one parent or guardian has to provide consent. How that consent is collected may differ depending on the clinic, so be sure to check when you register your child for their vaccination.

HOW CAN I PREPARE MY CHILD FOR THEIR VACCINE APPOINTMENT?

While the COVID-19 vaccine is very safe, your child might be feeling nervous about getting a shot. It will be helpful to encourage your child to ask questions they may have about the vaccine in order to comfort them. Some things to note:

- They may feel a pinch or poke from the needle, but it will be over before they know it.
- Their arm may feel heavy or sore for a few hours, but it will go away.

[This colouring page](#) is a great resource about a COVID-19 vaccine superhero to help with any questions your child may have about the vaccine. [Immunize BC](#) also is an excellent resource for tips to reduce pain, stress and anxiety with vaccinations for young children.

Sources:

<https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/covid-19-vaccines-now-available-for-children-5-11-in-bc>
<https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/covid-19-vaccines-approved-for-children-5-11-what-you-should-know>
<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/vaccines-children>
<https://immunizebc.ca/infants-young-children-0>
<https://immunizebc.ca/COVID-19-vaccines-FAQ-5-to-11>