



Pre-Approval FAQs: COVID-19 Vaccines and 5 to 11 Year Olds

Please note, until Pfizer's paediatric vaccine is approved for use in Canada and the province shares their 5 to 11 vaccination plan, we have limited information to share. In the interim, please review our Frequently Asked Questions designed to assist you in answering common questions. Once more information is available, we will develop a more comprehensive FAQ.

Is there an approved COVID-19 vaccine for children?

At this time, no COVID-19 vaccine in Canada has been approved for use in children born after 2009.

Pfizer-BioNTech is the first company to ask for Health Canada's approval for a pediatric COVID-19 vaccine, although other companies, such as Moderna, are working on children's formulations.

When will a COVID-19 vaccine become available for children?

We do not know when the COVID-19 vaccines will become available to children. This depends on how long it takes Health Canada to review the vaccine, as well as vaccine supply. It is expected that approval will come in 2021.

Where will the vaccine be available?

Once the vaccine is approved for 5 to 11 year olds and distribution is finalized, appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine will initially be available through Public Health clinics. Health Care Providers may also offer the vaccine, parents can be directed to contact their health care provider for information.

CK Public Health is actively working to make the Bradley Centre vaccine clinic as child friendly as possible to ensure children have a good vaccination experience. Clinic appointments with CK Public Health can be made online at [GetYourShotCK.ca](https://www.getyourshotck.ca) by calling 519.351.1010 when the vaccine becomes available.

Will the dose for children be the same as it is for adults?

No, Pfizer's pediatric formulation of the vaccine is approximately a third of the size of the adult version. Like the adult version, the pediatric formulation will also require two doses. We are uncertain of the interval at this time.

Are COVID-19 vaccine side effects the same in children?

Generally, yes. Your child might notice pain at the injection site (upper arm), and could feel more tired than usual. Headache, achy muscles, or joints, and even fever and chills are also possible. These side effects are usually temporary and generally clear up within 48 hours.

More serious side effects, like myocarditis and pericarditis, are rare and usually mild. The important thing to know is that a person is much more likely to get seriously ill as a result of COVID-19 infection than from the vaccine.

Why should I vaccinate my child for COVID-19?

The vaccine helps prevent kids from getting COVID-19 and spreading the virus to others who may become very sick or die from the virus. Getting vaccinated for COVID-19 can also help stop other variants from emerging.

Having your child vaccinated for COVID-19 can help restore a more normal life including school and activities as fully vaccinated individuals without symptoms will not be required to isolate when exposed to a positive case of COVID-19.

My child has allergies, should I vaccinate them?

It is best to talk about allergy concerns with your Health Care Provider.

Allergies to the COVID-19 vaccines are rare. The vaccines are safe, even if you have food, drug, or environmental allergies. Serious allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) are rare. Allergic reactions can be treated and are usually temporary.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for children?

Yes. Before vaccines are available in Ontario, they undergo rigorous clinical trials to ensure they are safe and effective. All vaccines must be evaluated and authorized for use by Health Canada. None of the COVID-19 vaccines skipped any steps in development, testing, or authorization.

Will there be long-term impacts?

The COVID-19 vaccine has been given to millions of people around the world and there is no reason to believe that any of the vaccines will have negative, long-term health effects.

After approval, Health Canada continues to monitor all authorized vaccines to ensure they continue to be safe and effective.

My Child is 11 and will be turning 12 early in 2022, should they be getting a pediatric dose or an adult dose as they will be the “adult” age for their second dose?

The dosing schedule and what vaccine should be administered is not yet known. Once more information for those 11 turning 12 is available, it will be communicated.

Do you recommend that children and youth get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. Although children are less at risk than older people, some children and youth may still develop severe COVID-19, or may require hospitalization because of COVID-19. The vaccine has been shown to prevent severe illness and hospitalization. Moreover, vaccinating children and youth is important to reduce the transmission of the virus since they represent a large proportion of the population.