

IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE SAFE FOR KIDS?

Ontario's pediatricians answer your questions about the COVID-19 vaccine

1 WILL THE VACCINE CHANGE MY CHILD'S GENETICS OR CAUSE INFERTILITY?

No. The vaccine does not alter genetics or hormones.

The active ingredient in the vaccine is called mRNA. It gets broken down very quickly after it is injected and cannot reach the area where your child's genetics are stored. The COVID-19 vaccines can not affect puberty, the ability to have children, or your child's hormones as it is not involved in those body systems.

2 CAN MY CHILD GET THE VACCINE IF THEY ARE ON MEDICATION?

Yes. The COVID-19 vaccine does not interfere with other medications your child may be taking.

Prescribed or over the counter medications will also not affect how the vaccine works. Talk to your child's pediatrician or family doctor if you have more questions.

3 DOES THE COVID-19 VACCINE WORK WITH THE REGULAR VACCINATIONS?

Yes. The COVID-19 vaccine doesn't appear to affect other vaccines and vice versa.

Out of an abundance of caution, it is recommended that the timing of the COVID-19 vaccine and any other vaccine is:

- 1) Wait 14 days after another vaccine before getting the COVID-19 vaccine.
- 2) Wait 28 days after the COVID-19 vaccine before getting another vaccine.

4 DO KIDS REALLY NEED THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

Yes. Kids need the COVID-19 vaccine.

Everyone needs the vaccine!

Children can catch and spread COVID-19. Children may not get as sick as adults but they can have symptoms for weeks. The vaccine is our best path back to regular routines.

5 CAN MY CHILD WITH ALLERGIES GET THE VACCINE?

Yes. Children with allergies can receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Children with severe allergies to food, medications and insect bites should all be vaccinated. If your child has had a severe allergic reaction to a vaccine or medical product, or if you have other questions about allergic reactions, this should be discussed with your child's pediatrician or family doctor before getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

6 WILL THE VACCINE LEAD TO BLOOD CLOTS?

No. There is no evidence that the COVID-19 vaccine approved for children causes blood clots.

7 MY CHILD HAS OTHER MEDICAL ISSUES, IS IT SAFE FOR THEM TO BE VACCINATED?

Yes. Children with other medical conditions such as Autism, ADHD, heart or kidney problems, or any other condition can safely receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

If you are concerned about a specific medical condition, be sure to speak with your child's pediatrician or family doctor.

8 SHOULD I BE WORRIED THAT THE VACCINE WAS DEVELOPED SO QUICKLY?

No. All testing and approval processes were followed for the COVID-19 vaccines. Many resources were made available to develop the COVID-19 vaccines so quickly because of how many people developed the disease around the world. The technologies behind the COVID-19 vaccines were built on decades of research and experience. No steps were skipped in the development, testing or approval processes.