

FACT SHEET: COVID-19 Vaccines

For Children 5-11

Years of Age

COVID-19
VACCINE FOR KIDS



Who should get the COVID-19 Vaccine?

Every eligible individual can benefit from the COVID-19 vaccine. Including those who have a medical condition that may put them at higher risk for complications from a COVID-19 infection.

Is the COVID-19 Vaccine Safe?

YES! Vaccines used in Canada are safe and effective. They are developed to meet the highest standards and are continually monitored for safety and effectiveness both in Canada and around the world.

What are the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination for children?

- Vaccinating children against COVID-19 is an important step in protecting your family and our community. Children make up approximately 21 percent of the total Canadian population. Vaccinating children is seen as crucial to prevent further spread or surges in variants of COVID-19 through the community, especially to those who may be at higher risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19.
- Children may be at lower risk of severe symptoms, however the known risks of COVID-19 illness and its related, possibly severe complications, such as long-term health problems, hospitalization, and even death, far outweigh the potential risks of having a rare adverse reaction to vaccination.
- Vaccination will help your children get back to participating in fun activities, spend more time with friends again and is seen as an important step in keeping kids in class and reducing school closures.

My child has had a COVID-19 infection, do they still need the vaccine?

YES! It is advised that you get the vaccine even if you have already had COVID-19.

Even though a prior COVID-19 infection may provide some protection from getting sick again, we do not know how long that protection will last and it may not protect against new variants of the virus.

Is the children's vaccine the same as the adult version?

The children's version of the COVID vaccine is a smaller dose, $\frac{1}{3}$ of the adult version.

My child has allergies, should they get the COVID-19 vaccine?

YES! 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, speak to your health-care provider before getting the vaccine.

Why is there a 15 minute wait time after getting vaccines?

Remaining at the clinic for 15 minutes after receiving a vaccine lets trained health-care providers monitor everyone. They do this to make sure that any reactions are treated right away. If you have an unusual reaction afterwards make sure to call your health-care provider. For serious or life threatening reactions call 911 or go to your closest emergency department.



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Do children need two doses?

YES! Just like adults, children require two doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

What are the risks of the COVID-19 vaccine?

Any medicine can cause side-effects. The risk of harm is small. Individuals may experience temporary side effects after receiving the COVID-19 vaccination. Most side effects being mild and easily tolerated.

Common signs the vaccine is beginning to work include:

- Injection Site - Pain, Redness, Swelling
- Throughout the Body - Tiredness, Headache, Muscle Pain, Chills, Fever, Nausea

Serious reactions are rare and usually happen within minutes to a few hours after the vaccine.

What is the age of medical consent?

As with all other medical procedures, COVID-19 vaccines are only provided with informed consent. As per the Ontario Health-care Consent Act, there is no age limit that sets out when people can provide informed consent and make medical decisions on their own. Consent can be provided by anyone who is capable of doing so and understanding the risks and benefits of their decision. The consent process for the 5-11 age cohort will follow the process used for the COVID-19 vaccination program to date.

However, the 5-11 age cohort will not have the same capacity to consent for themselves as the older cohorts and will require parental consent before receiving the vaccine in most cases.

How do vaccines work?

Vaccines work by training your body's immune system to recognize and fight a virus. To do this, vaccines use certain molecules or parts of a virus, called antigens, which trigger an immune response when they are introduced into the body

through vaccination. This way if you are ever exposed to the virus or a variation of the virus, your immune system will recognize the antigens and attack them before the disease can develop, which prevents you from severe consequences of being sick (i.e. hospitalization or even death).

mRNA technology is too new, what about long-term effects?

Doctors and scientists are confident in the long-term safety of the COVID-19 vaccines, because of the following:

- Canada has a high standard when it comes to the vaccine approval process. All of the steps and approval processes were followed for COVID-19 vaccines.
- The science behind the COVID-19 vaccines was built on decades of research and understanding of messenger RNA (mRNA) and its use in existing medicines.
- Based on history, negative effects of vaccines generally occur within six weeks of receiving a vaccine. COVID-19 vaccines have been in use for many months and billions of doses have been administered worldwide.

I have concerns about vaccinating my child, who should I talk to?

If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19 vaccination please reach out to:

- Your child's health-care provider
- Call Lambton Public Health's vaccine call centre at 226-254-8222 or visit **GetTheVaccine.ca**
- Book an appointment online with the COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service (sickkids.ca) - call 437-881-3505