



Preparing for COVID-19 Vaccinations for 5-11 year olds

Information for Health Care Providers

Family doctors and pediatricians are encouraged to register to [order](#) COVID-19 vaccines for their offices, including when pediatric formulations are available.

Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Preparations

- Pediatric COVID-19 vaccine is now available in Ontario. Supply is expected to be sufficient to vaccinate all 200,000 5 to 11 year olds in Toronto, but efforts to minimize wastage should continue.
- The vaccine is fridge stable. Unopened vials may be stored between 2°C and 8°C for 10 weeks. After dilution, the vials should be stored at 2°C to 25°C and used within 12 hours.
- The Pfizer pediatric vaccine for children age 5 to 11 years old is similar to the current vaccine, but the dosage has been reduced to 1/3 of the adult dose, to 10 µg.
- One vial contains 10 doses
- The pediatric COVID-19 vaccine primary series consists of two doses. The second dose should be given at an interval of 8 weeks.

The Benefits of COVID-19 Vaccination for Children

- Vaccination is an important way for everyone to do their part in protecting themselves, their family, friends, schools and the whole community from COVID-19.
- Although children who get COVID-19 usually experience mild or no symptoms, they can spread infection to others. Also, some children may have severe symptoms, require hospitalization, and/or develop long COVID. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine will reduce the risk of getting COVID-19 and protect children from severe outcomes if they do.
- By getting vaccinated children will be able to more safely get back to all the activities they enjoy, including continued in-person learning.

Vaccine Safety

[Clinical trial data](#) shows that:

- COVID-19 vaccine side effects in children are mild, similar to those for adults (e.g., sore arm, headache, fatigue), and usually resolve in 1-3 days. Side effects in children are fewer compared to young adults.
- Myocarditis/pericarditis have rarely been observed as AEFIs in youth/young adults:
 - The rate of myocarditis/pericarditis in 12-17 year olds is [rare](#). It has occurred in Ontario at a frequency of 0.006% following the first dose, and 0.01% following the second dose. Extending the interval between first and second doses may result in fewer cases following the second dose.
 - To date, no cases have been observed in pediatric clinical trials with 5-11 year olds. Since younger children have lower baseline rates of myocarditis and pericarditis and since the pediatric vaccine is a lower dose, with an 8 week interval between doses, rates may be even rarer among children 5-11 years old upon real world use.
 - The USA has given over 3 million pediatric vaccines to date. On-going vaccine surveillance in the USA will continue to inform vaccine safety post-licensure.



Addressing Hesitancy

- Start having conversations with parents about getting their children vaccinated.
- Listen to children's questions and provide compassionate, age-appropriate responses.
- Use resources from trusted sources to answer questions.

Resources and Referrals for Consultation and Vaccination of Children

- [SickKids COVID-19 Consult Service](#) – A by-appointment telephone COVID-19 vaccine consultation service with SickKids Registered Nurses.
- [SHN VaxFacts Clinic](#) – A by-appointment telephone COVID-19 vaccine consultation service with SHN physicians.
- SickKids Hospital [referral information for children who need vaccination accommodations](#)
- Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre - [1-833-943-3900](#)
- [Max the Vax](#) – The Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies and Canadian Medical Association have created this website with resources for children and parents to make informed decisions about vaccinations.
- University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy's [FAQ COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines for Children](#)
- University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy's [FAQ Myocarditis and Pericarditis After COVID-19 Vaccines – A guide for teens, guardians, and young adults](#)
- Ministry of Health [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet: For Children](#)
- Ministry of Health [COVID-19 Vaccine Administration](#)
- Product Monograph for [Pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#)