

About COVID-19 Vaccines

Building Vaccine Confidence Through Knowledge



If your child experiences a severe reaction or serious side effect, seek medical help immediately.

Speak to their health care provider for advice before they get another dose.



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CHILDREN

Why children should receive the COVID-19 vaccine

To protect their health: Most children who get COVID-19 are mildly sick, but some children can become very sick and develop complications.

Vaccination of children is highly protective against severe illness due to COVID-19 and complications like MIS-C. MIS-C (Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children) is a rare condition following a COVID-19 infection where different body parts can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs.

To prevent the spread: Children can spread the virus to family or friends even if they are asymptomatic.

To stay in school and activities:

Vaccination reduces the likelihood of in-person activities being paused.

Only vaccines approved by Health Canada are used to vaccinate children

Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine for children

Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine for children

All COVID-19 vaccines authorized in Canada are proven safe, effective and of high quality.

Side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine in children are mild and like the ones experienced by adults

Some children experience no side effects. However, if side effects are experienced, they typically occur within one week of vaccination, are mild, and resolve on their own after a few days.

- Sore arm at the injection site
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Fever and chills

Serious side effects are rare. While a very small number of adolescents and young adults (mostly males) have experienced myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) or pericarditis (inflammation of the lining around the heart) following COVID-19 vaccination, it's important to emphasize that these side effects are extremely rare.

The current data shows that the risks of developing complications are far higher following COVID-19 infection than following vaccination.

This tip sheet and other resources are available for download at www.FamiliesCanada.ca

