Some parents may choose to have their child receive the booster dose sooner than the recommendations listed. For these children, it is advised to wait a minimum of 3 months after infection before receiving the booster, but these children must still wait the minimum time since their last vaccination.

Hybrid Immunity

Hybrid immunity is the protection from being up to date with vaccination and having had COVID-19. This type of immunity is stronger than the immunity from vaccination or infection alone. It is therefore recommended that children receive their booster dose even if they have had COVID-19, so long as the appropriate time since infection has passed, so they can benefit from hybrid immunity.

Which vaccine should I receive as a booster?
Currently, the original Pfizer pediatric COVID-19 vaccine is the only product authorized for use as a booster dose in children aged 5 to 11.

What is known about the safety of COVID-19 booster doses for children aged 5 to 11?
Clinical trials showed that the safety of the Pfizer pediatric COVID-19 booster dose was similar to that of the original Pfizer pediatric primary series. Children experienced side effects slightly more often following the booster dose compared to the primary series. However, side effects following a booster dose in children aged 5 to 11 occurred less often than they do for adults.

While no cases of myocarditis and/or pericarditis were observed in the clinical trials for the booster dose, there is a rare risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis following vaccination with original mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. Available data suggests that the risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis following mRNA COVID-19 vaccination is lower in children aged 5 to 11 compared to those aged 12 to 29. Please see the Important Information about Myocarditis and Pericarditis fact sheet for more information.

For information, visit novascotia.ca/vaccine-plan

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