

VACCINE INFORMATION AND AFTER CARE

Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers

Please read this carefully and ensure a health care provider answers your questions before getting the vaccine.

How does the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine protect against COVID-19?

The vaccine causes our body to produce protection (such as antibodies) to help keep us from becoming sick if we are exposed to the COVID-19 virus. You cannot get a COVID-19 infection from the vaccine.

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine uses messenger RNA (mRNA) which triggers a response to help our body protect itself against the virus. Moderna COVID-19 vaccine provides some short-term protection against COVID-19 infection.

While most children younger than 5 years old have mild COVID-19 disease, some experience severe disease, including previously healthy children. It is not currently known how much protection the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine provides against severe COVID-19 disease in children aged 6 months to 4 years. In youth and adults, Moderna COVID-19 vaccine provides a high level of longer lasting protection against severe COVID-19 disease and death.

It takes around 14 days after receiving a dose of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for your child's immune system to respond to the vaccine.

How many doses of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should my child get?

Most children require two doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to complete their primary series. Children who are moderately to severely immunocompromised should receive three doses of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to complete their primary series.

What else should I know about the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 6 months to 4 years?

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers is the first COVID-19 vaccine approved in Canada for children under the age of 5. It uses the same mRNA platform as the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for youth and adults, but it is a smaller dose.

At this time, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends that the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should not be routinely given at the same time as other vaccines in children 6 months to 4 years of age. It is recommended to wait at least 14 days between vaccines. In some cases, other vaccines may need to be given closer to a COVID-19 vaccine. Your child's healthcare provider can help decide the timing of COVID-19 vaccines with non-COVID-19 vaccines if this is the case.

If your child has already had COVID-19, it is recommended to wait 8 weeks (or between 4 to 8 weeks if immunocompromised) after their symptoms started (or after their positive test if they had no symptoms) before receiving their first or next dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Children who received a dose of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine when they were 4 and who turn 5 before they complete their primary series can complete their primary series with Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is approved for use in this age group. Children who are 5 and have not yet received any doses of COVID-19 vaccine should receive Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to complete their primary series.



For information visit: novascotia.ca/vaccine-plan

VACCINE INFORMATION AND AFTER CARE

Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers

Please read this carefully and ensure a health care provider answers your questions before getting the vaccine.

Myocarditis and Pericarditis

There have been rare cases of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the lining around the heart) following vaccination with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (including Moderna) among older children, youth, and adults.

These rare cases occur more commonly among males, persons 12 to 29 years of age, and after the second dose. Some data suggest that this occurs less frequently if there is a longer interval between the first and second dose. Current data suggest that the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis in those 5 to 11 years of age is lower than in youth and adults.

The risk of myocarditis/pericarditis following Moderna COVID-19 vaccination in the 6 month to 4 year age group is currently unknown. Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, Nova Scotia, and vaccine manufacturers continue to closely monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines.

Symptoms of Myocarditis/Pericarditis can include:

- breathing fast or using extra muscles to breathe
- tiredness or fussiness
- chest pain or pressure
- unexplained sweating
- cough
- the feeling of a rapid or an abnormal heart rhythm
- swelling in the ankles and feet

If your child develops any of these symptoms, they should seek immediate medical attention and you should mention they have received the vaccine.

Most cases occur within a week of getting the vaccine. Most of these cases, although hospitalized are relatively mild and recover well with rest and treatment of symptoms.

Myocarditis can also occur as a complication in people who are infected with COVID-19.

National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) Recommendations:

As a precaution, NACI recommends that people who have experienced myocarditis with or without pericarditis (with an abnormal cardiac investigation) within 6 weeks following a previous dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should wait to receive further doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

People with a history compatible with pericarditis and who either had no cardiac workup or had normal cardiac investigations, can receive the next dose of mRNA vaccine once they are symptom free and at least 90 days has passed since vaccination. However, you should follow up with your child's healthcare provider before s/he receives the vaccine.

People with a history of myocarditis not related to mRNA COVID-19 vaccination who are still being followed by a health care provider should consult their health care provider for individual considerations and recommendations.



For information visit: novascotia.ca/vaccine-plan

Who can get the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers?

If you identify with any of the situations in the ★ MAY BE ABLE TO GET ★ column, you should discuss your personal risks of COVID-19 and potential benefits and risks of getting the vaccine with your doctor, nurse practitioner, specialist, clinic nurse or pharmacist familiar with your medical history before deciding whether getting the vaccine is right for you.

ELIGIBILITY		CAN GET	MAY BE ABLE TO GET	SHOULD NOT GET
Age:	6 months to 4 years of age	✓		
	5 years of age - Children who received a dose of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine when they were 4 and who turn 5 before they complete their primary series can complete their primary series with Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Children who are 5 and have not yet received any doses of COVID-19 vaccine should complete their primary series with Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.		★	
	Has your child received any COVID-19 vaccines while living in another province/country? If yes, please provide information to immunization provider.		★	
	Children who tested positive for COVID-19 and have not been fully vaccinated are advised to wait 2 months to get a first or second dose of vaccine. Some people may choose to receive a vaccine dose after symptoms of COVID-19 have resolved and they are no longer infectious.	✓		
	Has your child been diagnosed with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) in the past? Provide date of diagnosis to health care provider. Your child can receive COVID-19 vaccine when they have recovered or it has been greater than 90 days since the onset of MIS-C, whichever is longer.		★	
	Has your child ever felt faint or fainted, had a breath-holding spell or become weak or unresponsive after a past vaccination or medical procedure? If yes, tell your immunization provider and use strategies to reduce your child's anxiety like bringing a comforting item.	✓		
	Has your child suffered an anaphylactic reaction (severe allergic reaction) to a different vaccine or another injectable medication? If you answer yes, your child may be vaccinated today, but will be observed for 30 minutes after receiving your vaccination. (Children with a diagnosed food allergy can receive the COVID-19 vaccine without this prolonged observation time.)	✓		
	Did your child experienced myocarditis or pericarditis after their first immunization with Moderna vaccine? Wait to receive any further doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine if your child experienced myocarditis. You should follow up with your child's healthcare provider before s/he receives any more doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine		★	
Allergies:	Has your child ever experienced anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction) to Polyethylene Glycol (PEG), Tromethamine (trometamol or Tris) or any other ingredient in the vaccine? Tell the health care provider if your child is allergic to anything that may contain Polyethylene Glycol, Tromethamine. <i>In very rare cases, Polyethylene glycol (PEG) can cause allergic reactions. It is found in products such as medications, bowel preparation products for colonoscopy, laxatives, cough syrups, cosmetics, skin creams, dermal fillers, medical products used on the skin and during operations, and contact lens solutions. Tromethamine is a component in contrast media, oral and parenteral medications. Consultation with an allergist is recommended before your child receives Moderna vaccine. Nut allergies are not a contraindication to vaccination of children.</i>		★	
Problems with immune system:	Does your child have problems with their immune system?	✓		
	Does your child have an autoimmune disease?	✓		
	Has your child been vaccinated in the past 14 days (not a COVID-19 vaccine)? <i>As a precaution, NACI recommends that COVID-19 vaccines should not routinely be given at the same time with other vaccines. There may be cases in which simultaneous administration, or a shortened interval may be warranted on an individual basis. A healthcare professional can help to determine timing of COVID-19 vaccines with non-COVID-19 vaccines.</i>		★	

In addition to the above information, tell the health care provider if:

- Your child has fainted or felt faint, had a breath-holding spell, or become weak and unresponsive after getting past vaccines or medical procedures. Strategies to decrease your child's pain or reduce their anxiety, like bringing a comforting item or holding them in a comfortable position might be helpful.
- Your child has a bleeding disorder or is taking medication that could affect blood clotting. This information will help the health care provider prevent bleeding or bruising from the needle.

For information visit: novascotia.ca/vaccine-plan



Updated August 3, 2022



Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers

Everything you need to know before your child gets the COVID-19 vaccine

What should I do before coming to the clinic for my child's appointment?

Dress your baby in bottoms that are easy to remove. Toddlers and preschoolers can wear a short-sleeve shirt or top with sleeves that are easy to roll up.

Give your child something to eat before coming to the clinic to prevent feeling faint while being vaccinated. Bring a comforting blanket or toy to help reduce your child's anxiety.

You can bring a clean well-fitted mask for you and your child to wear while you are in the building.

Bring your child's Nova Scotia Health card if they have one.

When should my child return for their second dose of vaccine?

Completing your child's primary series helps them to build stronger protection.

Most children need two doses to complete their primary series. They should get the second dose of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine 8 weeks after the first dose.

Children who are moderately to severely immunocompromised are recommended to receive three doses to complete their primary series. These children should receive their second dose 28 days after their first dose and receive their third dose 56 days after their second.

Tell the person providing the second dose if your child experienced any side effects after the first dose.

Resources for Children Receiving Immunizations

- iwk.nshealth.ca/covid-assets/Nervous-About-Needles-En.pdf
- iwk.nshealth.ca/sites/default/files/IWK-Health-COVID-19-Vaccine-Toolkit.pdf
- iwk.nshealth.ca/COVID-19/vaccination-resources

When to cancel and rebook your vaccine appointment

Cancel and rebook your vaccine appointment using the link on your emailed vaccine appointment confirmation if you or your child are unwell.

Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for infants,
toddlers, and preschoolers

Everything you need to know after your child gets the COVID-19 vaccine



What should I do right after getting the vaccine?

- You and your child will stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting the vaccine. You may be asked to wait for 30 minutes if there is concern about a possible vaccine allergy or allergy to another injectable medication.
- Tell a health care provider at the clinic if your child feels or looks unwell while waiting. If waiting in your vehicle, honk your horn to get their attention.
- Use the hand sanitizer (alcohol based hand rub) to clean your hands before leaving the clinic.

**In rare cases, people
can faint or have an allergic
reaction after getting
a vaccine.**

*Symptoms of an allergic
reaction include:*

**hives (bumps on the skin
that are often very itchy)**

**swelling of face, tongue
or throat**

or difficulty breathing

**flushed, pale, or blue skin
colour**

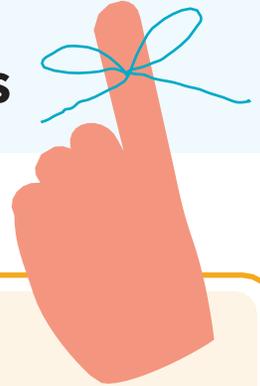
**Tell a health care provider
at the clinic right away
if your child is having any
of these symptoms.**

Serious side effects after getting
the vaccine are rare. However,
should your child develop any
serious symptoms that could be
related to an allergic reaction,

CALL 911 RIGHT AWAY.

VACCINE INFORMATION AND AFTER CARE

Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers



What are the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine? What can I expect over the next few days?

Children can have side effects in the two weeks after getting the vaccine with most of the common side effects occurring in the first day or two.

Side effects are expected and can show the vaccine is working to produce protection in your body.

They may include:

- Pain, swelling or redness where the needle was given. Place a cool, damp cloth or wrapped ice pack over where the vaccine was given
- Tiredness, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, nausea, vomiting, chills, fever, or enlarged lymph nodes (swollen glands) in your child's underarm. Check with your healthcare provider if you need advice about pain or fever medication.
- Some children have febrile seizures when they get a fever. See information from the IWK on febrile seizures:

<https://www.iwk.nshealth.ca/sites/default/files/PL-0291-Final-April26-2019.pdf>

Although these side effects are not serious, they may make your child feel unwell for about one to three days. They will go away on their own.

Rarely Bell's palsy (weakened or inability to move the muscles of the face) has been reported after mRNA vaccines like Moderna. Seek medical attention right away if your child experiences facial weakness or drooping or other symptoms involving the face.

If you have any concerns about the symptoms your child develops after getting the vaccine, including symptoms of myocarditis/pericarditis, contact your health care provider for advice.

Things to remember

Even after you child has received the COVID-19 vaccine, you should continue to follow public health guidance to prevent spread of COVID-19.

- ✓ clean your hands regularly
- ✓ stay home if you or your child feel unwell

Your child should wait 14 days before receiving another vaccine. **A healthcare professional can help to determine timing of COVID-19 vaccines with non-COVID-19 vaccines.**

Tell the person providing the second dose about any side effects your child experienced with the first dose.

Do not have your child get a TB (tuberculosis) test until 4 weeks after their COVID-19 vaccine.

Keep this sheet or other immunization record in a safe place.

If you have questions, call your health care provider or visit novascotia.ca/vaccine-plan.