

VACCINE INFORMATION AND AFTER CARE

Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for ages 6 months to and including 4 years

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

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

COVID-19 vaccines work by helping our bodies to build protection (such as antibodies) against the virus that causes COVID-19. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine uses messenger RNA (mRNA) which gives our bodies instructions that help build that protection. Your child cannot get a COVID-19 infection from the vaccine.

It is expected that the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for ages 6 months to 4 years will provide 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 Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine provides against severe COVID-19 disease in children aged 6 months to 4 years. We do know that COVID-19 vaccination in youth and adults gives a high level of longer lasting protection against severe COVID-19 disease and death.

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

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

Children require **three doses** of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to complete their primary series.

For children who are moderately to severely immunocompromised, Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is recommended because it requires only three doses so your child will be protected sooner. If Pfizer is used, children who are moderately to severely immunocompromised require **four doses** of Pfizer to complete the primary series. **To get proper protection, your child must complete the entire primary series.**

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

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for ages 6 months to 4 years is approved in Canada for the primary series. It uses the same mRNA platform as the Pfizer 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 Pfizer 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.

If your child turns 5 years of age after starting their primary series with this vaccine, they should receive the age-appropriate Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine once they turn 5 (i.e., the vaccine for children ages 5 to 11 years). Three doses (or four if immunocompromised) are still required to complete the series.

Rare cases of myocarditis (swelling of the heart muscle) and/or pericarditis (swelling of the lining around the heart) have been reported in older age groups following vaccination with original mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

Please see the [Important Information about Myocarditis and Pericarditis](#) fact sheet for more information.



Who can get the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for ages 6 months to 4 years?

If you identify your child with any of the situations in the MAY BE ABLE TO GET column, you should discuss the 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 child's medical history before deciding whether getting the vaccine is right for them.

ELIGIBILITY		CAN GET	MAY BE ABLE TO GET	SHOULD NOT GET
Age:	6 months to 4 years of age	✓		
Has your child received any COVID-19 vaccines while living in another province/country? <i>If yes, please provide information to immunization provider.</i>			★	
Are Children who tested positive for COVID-19 and have not completed their primary series advised to wait 2 months to get a first or second dose of vaccine? <i>Some people may choose to receive a vaccine dose after symptoms of COVID-19 have resolved and they are no longer infectious.</i>		✓		
Has your child been diagnosed with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) in the past? <i>Provide your child's date of diagnosis to the 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.</i>			★	
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? <i>If yes, tell your immunization provider and use strategies to reduce your child's anxiety like bringing a comforting item.</i>		✓		
Has your child suffered an anaphylactic reaction (severe allergic reaction) to a different vaccine or another injectable medication? <i>If you answer yes, your child may be vaccinated today, but will be observed for 30 minutes after receiving their vaccination. (Children with a diagnosed food allergy can receive the COVID-19 vaccine without this prolonged observation time.)</i>		✓		
Did your child experience myocarditis or pericarditis after their first immunization with the Pfizer vaccine? <i>Wait to receive any further doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine if your child experienced myocarditis. You should follow up with your child's health care provider before s/he receives any more doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine</i>			★	
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? <i>Tell the health care provider if your child is allergic to anything that may contain Polyethylene Glycol, Tromethamine.</i> <i>Polyethylene glycol (PEG) is found in products such as medications, bowel preparation products for colonoscopy, laxatives, cough syrups, cosmetics, skin creams, and medical products used on the skin and during operation. Tromethamine is a component in contrast media, and medications. If yes, consultation with an allergist is recommended before your child receives Pfizer vaccine.</i> <i>Nut allergies are not a contraindication to vaccination of children.</i>		★	
Does your child have problems with their immune system?		✓		
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 for children 6 months to 4 years. There may be cases in which simultaneous administration, or a shortened interval may be warranted on an individual basis. A health care professional can help to determine timing of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines.</i>			★	

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

- 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.



Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for ages 6 months to 4 years

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 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 clean well-fitted masks 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 next dose of vaccine?

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

Children need three doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for ages 6 months to 4 years. They should get the second dose 8 weeks after the first dose and should get their third dose 8 weeks after their second.

Children who are moderately to severely immunocompromised are recommended to receive four doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for ages 6 months to 4 years to complete their primary series. There should be 28 days (4 weeks) between each of the first three doses, and 56 days (8 weeks) between the third and fourth 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.

Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for ages 6 months to 4 years

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

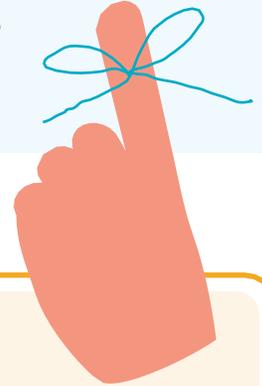
Tell a health care provider at the clinic right away if your child is having any of these symptoms.

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

Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for ages 6 months to 4 years



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 their 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 health care 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 Pfizer. 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 your 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 health care 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.

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