



Labrador-Grenfell
Health

“COVID-19 Vaccine in School-Aged Children”

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S)

1. Is the vaccine safe for children 12 to 15 years old?

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends that a complete series with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to adolescents 12 to 17 years of age who do not have contraindications to the vaccine.

Both Moderna and Pfizer are approved for use for individuals 12 years and older in Canada.

Health Canada approved the use of Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine for children 12 to 15 years old on May 5, 2021, and Moderna vaccine for children 12 to 17 years old on August 27, 2021. Pfizer-BioNtech was previously approved for individuals 16 years of age and older.

For more information, the NACI recommendation can be found [here](#).

2. My child is turning 12 later this year. Are they eligible to receive it now?

Studies on children under 12 are in progress, and the vaccine is not yet approved in this group. To receive the vaccine, individuals must be 12 years old at the time of immunization.

3. How can I assist to ensure my child is comfortable prior receiving the vaccine?

Speak to your child or direct them to someone who can assure they get the facts about the vaccine. Immunizations can be stressful for some children. Speak openly about the importance of protection from COVID-19 through vaccination and share only accurate information about the vaccine. Recognize that parental personal stress of vaccination can occasionally be transferred to the child. Do your best to remain calm and positive about vaccines



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4. Will my child need to get a second dose of the vaccine? Will they have to get it every year?

The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccinations, consist of two doses given at least 28 days and up to four months apart. It is very important to get both doses of the vaccine.

Some vaccines like the (flu shot) are required every year while other vaccines offer protection of life. The duration of protection for the COVID-19 vaccine is currently being studied with information to follow.

5. Can I have the COVID-19 vaccine with other vaccines?

It is recommended to wait 14 days after a different vaccine before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. It is recommended to wait 28 after getting a COVID-19 vaccine before getting a different vaccine.

6. After receiving their vaccination, will my child still have to wear a mask?

Because it takes time to build up an immune response and everyone will not be vaccinated at the same time, it is still recommended to wear a mask, maintain physical distance, wash hands regularly, and stay at home if ill.

7. If my child has, any underlying health issues (i.e., allergies, diabetes, asthma) should they be vaccinated?

Vaccination is encouraged. However, if a child is immunosuppressed (have a weakened immune system) or have an autoimmune condition you should **talk to your health care provider** prior to the vaccination to discuss the potential risks and benefits of having the COVID-19 vaccine.

Talk about any health conditions or concerns, including:

- allergies, weakened immune system due to a medical condition or medications that weaken the immune system, having a bleeding disorder, bruising easily, or using a blood thinning medication.

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8. Are there any side effects to the vaccine for school-aged children?

Like any medications or supplements (including vitamins), vaccines can cause side effects and reactions. Serious side effects are very rare. After being vaccinated, it is common to have mild and harmless side effects. These may last a few hours or days after the vaccine. Common side effects include:

Very common: may affect more than 1 in 10 people

- injection site pain • tiredness • headache • muscle pain • chills • joint pain
- fever • diarrhea

Common: may affect more than 1 in 100 and up to 1 in 10 people

- injection site redness • injection site swelling • nausea • vomiting

Uncommon: may affect up to 1 in 100 people

- enlarged lymph nodes • feeling unwell • arm pain

***All individuals will be monitored for 15 minutes following the vaccine. In the event of a serious side effect, Public Health Staff will be prepared to respond. Anyone who experiences symptoms of a severe allergic reaction (including hives or difficulty breathing) should call 9-1-1 and seek immediate medical attention.