

COVID-19 Vaccination Fact Sheet

Pfizer vaccine for children 5 to 11 years of age



How do mRNA COVID-19 vaccines work?

- The vaccine tells the cells in your body to make a protein that is found specifically on the virus that causes COVID-19. These “spike proteins,” although harmless to us, will trigger our body to start making antibodies. Our new antibodies will protect us from being sick if we are exposed to the virus.
- The vaccine does not contain the virus, so it cannot give you COVID-19.
- The vaccine has been tested in clinical trials to ensure they meet safety standards, and has been licensed and approved by Health Canada.
- The vaccine requires two doses to work.
- Pfizer doses for those aged 5 to 11 years of age are recommended to be given at least 8 weeks apart.



What are the benefits of the vaccine?

- The vaccine provides protection against getting COVID-19, and, for those who do become infected, it may reduce how unwell a person feels.
- Two doses of the vaccine are required for better protection. After the final dose, it may take another one to two weeks to achieve maximum protection against COVID-19.
- There is no information on long-term protection with this vaccine yet.



Who should not get this vaccine?

- Anyone with a history of a severe allergic reaction to the vaccine ingredients, including polyethylene glycol and tromethamine.
- Anyone with proven immediate or anaphylactic hypersensitivity to the vaccine ingredients or its packaging.
- Anyone who had a severe reaction to a previous dose of this vaccine.



Who should delay getting this vaccine?

- Anyone who has a fever, is sick with COVID-19 symptoms, or who has received a vaccine in the past 14 days.
- It is recommended to wait 14 days, after getting your COVID-19 shot, before receiving any other vaccine.



Consult with your health care provider if you:

- Have had a severe allergic reaction to another vaccine.



What are the side effects of the vaccine?

In general, the side effects observed during the clinical trials are similar to what you may have experienced with other vaccines.

Very common:
(may affect more than 1 in 10 people)

- Pain
- Redness and swelling at the injection site

Flu-like symptoms, such as:

- Chills
- Fatigue
- Joint Pain
- Headache
- Mild Fever
- Muscle Aches
- Nausea
- Diarrhea



Do I still need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I have received this two-dose vaccine?

Yes. There is a small chance that you may still get COVID-19 after being vaccinated. It is still important for everyone to continue with public health measures like wearing a mask, physical distancing, washing hands often, and staying home if you are sick.



What are the ingredients of the vaccine?

Pfizer Vaccine Ingredients for those 5 to 11 years of age:

- mRNA (medicinal ingredient)
- ALC-0315 = (4-hydroxybutyl) azanediyl) bis(hexane-6,1-diyl) bis(2-hexyldecanoate)
- ALC-0159 = 2-[(polyethylene glycol)-2000]-N, N-ditetradecylacetamide
- 1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (DSPC)
- cholesterol
- tromethamine
- tromethamine hydrochloride
- sodium chloride, sucrose, water for injection



If I have had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need the vaccine?

Yes. There is some evidence to suggest that natural immunity from a COVID-19 illness may not last very long. It is best to get the vaccine to stay protected.