

RNA COVID-19 Paediatric Vaccine (Pfizer)

Vaccination,
the best protection

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Vaccination is the best protection against COVID-19 and its complications, in addition to other measures such as physical distancing, wearing a medical mask or face covering, and hand washing.

Disease	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fever• Cough• Trouble breathing• Loss of smell• Fatigue• Headaches• Muscle aches• Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea• Overall sick feeling	<p>While rare, the following are potential complications in children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Persistent long COVID-19 complications lasting several months: trouble breathing, fatigue, weakness, difficulty falling/staying asleep, and concentrating• Pneumonia and other respiratory issues• Heart problems• Neurological problems such as brain inflammation, etc.• Inflammation temporally associated with COVID-19, leading to organ dysfunction (Paediatric inflammatory multisystem syndrome [PIMS])

The vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against COVID-19 and its complications. Pfizer paediatric vaccine is approved for children aged 5 to 11 years.

Pfizer paediatric vaccine requires 2 doses. After 2 doses, this vaccine efficacy is 91%. The 2nd dose should be given at least 8 weeks after the 1st dose. The 2nd dose is required to increase protection, especially from some variants, and also extends the duration of protection.

Symptoms after vaccination

Some symptoms may be caused by the vaccine (e.g., pain at the injection site). Other problems may occur by chance and are not related to the vaccine (e.g., cold, gastroenteritis). Most reactions are generally harmless, are less frequent among children than among teenagers and adults, and do not last more than 1 or 2 days. They are more frequently experienced when the second dose is administered. Using an interval of 8 weeks or more between doses reduces the frequency of reactions after vaccination.

Rare cases of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) or pericarditis (inflammation of the tissue that surrounds the heart) have been observed in older children and adults, most often after the 2nd dose. In clinical studies, no cases were observed in children aged 5 to 11 years, but a very small risk of myocarditis or pericarditis cannot be excluded.

Pfizer paediatric vaccine cannot cause COVID-19 because it does not contain the SARS-CoV-2 virus that is responsible for the disease. However, children who have been in contact with the virus in the days preceding or following their vaccination could still develop COVID-19.

For healthy children who have had COVID-19 before they receive their 1st dose of the vaccine, a single dose is required. There is no risk of giving 2 doses of vaccine to someone who has had COVID-19, but the 2nd dose does not provide any additional protection for them. For children who had COVID-19 when they were given the 1st dose or afterwards, a total of 2 doses are required.

Safety of the vaccine

Pfizer paediatric vaccine is approved by Health Canada and has met all the requirements for approval. It has been tested on many children. Experts are closely monitoring for evidence of adverse reactions that could occur following vaccination and taking appropriate measures to ensure the safety and effectiveness of this vaccine.

(see verso)

RNA COVID-19 Paediatric Vaccine (Pfizer) *(continued)*

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Frequency	Known reactions to this vaccine	What to do
In most cases (more than 1 child in 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain at the injection site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply a cold, damp compress at the injection site. • Use medication for fever or discomfort if needed. • See a doctor if symptoms are severe. • See a doctor if chest pain, palpitations or shortness of breath develop.
Very often (less than 1 child in 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redness or swelling at the injection site • Headache • Fatigue • Muscle soreness 	
Often (less than 1 child in 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever or shivering • Diarrhea, vomiting • Joint pain 	
Rarely (less than 1 child in 100)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swollen armpit lymph nodes 	

If your child has COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, trouble breathing, loss of smell, etc.), consult the *COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool* to determine if testing is required:

<https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/covid-19-symptom-self-assessment-tool/>

We recommend that you stay at the clinic at least 15 minutes after vaccination because allergic reaction may occur. If an allergic reaction occurs, the symptoms will appear a few minutes after vaccination. The person giving the vaccine will be able to treat this reaction immediately.

For any questions, contact the person giving the vaccine, or Info-Santé 811 or your doctor.