

COVID-19 vaccines for children 5-11 years old

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More than **1.6 million** children ages 5-11 have received the COVID-19 vaccine in Canada.

More children are getting vaccinated every day.



This information can help you make the best decision for you and your child.

COVID-19 vaccine for children

Anyone 5 years or older can get the COVID-19 vaccine for free in BC.

- The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is approved for children ages 5-11.
- The Moderna vaccine is approved for children ages 6-11.
- Children get a smaller dose than adults. This is similar to some other vaccines for younger children.
- Health Canada carefully reviewed the vaccine data to make sure they are safe and effective.

How vaccines work

The vaccines teach our immune system how to recognize and fight the COVID-19 virus.

- 1 The vaccine gives instructions to our cells on how to build a harmless part of the virus.
- 2 Our immune system knows that this part doesn't belong and makes antibodies.
- 3 If we are exposed to the virus, our body now has the tools to fight it without getting very sick.

COVID-19 in children

Most children who get COVID-19 have mild symptoms. They may have a fever and cough, or have no symptoms. However, some children can get very sick.



Serious illness due to COVID-19

Over 100 children in B.C. have been hospitalized with COVID-19.

(BCCDC data as of Feb 2022)

Children can get severe lung infection and heart issues like myocarditis from COVID-19. Deaths from COVID-19 in children ages 5-11 are very rare.

The chance of getting very sick is higher for children who are not fully vaccinated or have certain medical conditions.

Long term effects of COVID-19

Some children's symptoms can last weeks or months after COVID-19.

Long term symptoms can include headaches, tiredness and difficulty concentrating.

Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) is a rare but serious condition that can occur weeks after COVID-19.

- Different organs can become inflamed.
- Most children require hospital care but get better with treatment.

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Benefits of vaccination

Avoid getting very sick

Vaccines help protect children from serious illness due to COVID-19.

Even if they already had COVID-19, the vaccine can provide a stronger and longer lasting immune response.



1.8x

Unvaccinated children ages 5-11 were 1.8 times more likely to be hospitalized than children who were vaccinated with at least one dose of Pfizer.

(BCCDC data from Dec 15, 2021 to Feb 12, 2022)

Safer Interactions

Vaccines can make it less likely that children will miss out on important activities, like school, sports and social events.



Vaccine safety

Large amounts of safety data is tracked as millions of children get vaccinated.

Common side effects

Children may have mild side effects after the vaccine that can last 1-3 days, including:



Sore arm



Fatigue or tiredness



Body ache

These are normal and show that their immune system is working.

Rare serious events

Serious safety events like allergic reactions or myocarditis are extremely rare.

Children who had a serious event received treatment and recovered quickly.

Children are at far greater risk of hospitalization if they get COVID-19, than from any rare effects of the vaccine.

Vaccine safety monitoring is ongoing.

Have more questions?

Talk to a doctor, nurse or pharmacist or call **8-1-1**.

Get your child vaccinated

Register at gov.bc.ca/vaccineforkids
Or call **1-833-838-2323**

Learn more

bccdc.ca/covid19vaccinechildren