

# COVID-19 vaccines for children aged 5-11



The **Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine** is now approved for use by Health Canada in youth between the ages of

**5 and 11.**

Clinical trials show the vaccine is

**90.7%**  
*effective*

in preventing COVID-19 in 5 to 11-year-olds.

» **20%**

of daily COVID-19 cases in Canada are currently in children under the age of 12. Vaccination is the best way to reduce the risk of children getting and spreading COVID-19.

In clinical trials, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was studied in

**2,268**  
*children*

between the ages of 5 and 11.



**80%**

of Canadian youth aged 12 to 17 are already fully vaccinated. More than **4 million doses** of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine have been administered in older children.



A lower dose of vaccine is used for children aged 5 to 11. Like those over the age of 12, children require two doses for full immunization.



10 micrograms =  
Vaccine dose used  
for 5 to 11-year-olds



30 micrograms =  
Vaccine dose used  
for individuals over  
the age 12

# What are the benefits of youth vaccination?

- The vaccine reduces the chances of getting COVID-19.
- It is highly effective in reducing the chance of getting hospitalized or developing rare complications if a vaccinated child gets COVID-19.
- The vaccine may help to prevent long-term symptoms by preventing severe illness.
- It may reduce the chance of spreading COVID-19 to others and prevent school outbreaks.

## Is the vaccine safe?



**Millions of mRNA vaccines have been given safely to individuals over the age of 12. Data from clinical trials did not indicate any serious safety concerns in 5 to 11-year-olds.**

The vaccine was studied extensively in clinical trials and all data has been carefully reviewed by Health Canada and regulatory bodies.



While the vaccine has been associated with rare cases of myocarditis in adolescents and adults, no serious side effects and no cases of myocarditis were reported in clinical trials for children aged 5-11. The most common side effects are soreness where the needle is injected and mild flu-like symptoms in the first 2-4 days. These mild side effects were less common in children aged 5-11 than in those aged 12 and older.

Regulatory bodies will continue to monitor for any adverse events, including myocarditis, as the vaccine is rolled out to this age group.

#### SOURCES:

- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Health Canada
- National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)