

COVID-19 Vaccination for 5-11 year olds is now available

As you may know, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, also called Comirnaty, was approved for children 5 to 11 years old on November 19. As your child's doctor, we strongly recommend that your child gets the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it becomes available to you.

Starting Tuesday, November 23, at 8 a.m. COVID-19 vaccination appointments for 5 to 11 year olds can be booked at www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/.

Children must be turning five years old by the end of 2021 (born in 2016) to be eligible to book an appointment. Appointments can be booked by visiting the City of Toronto COVID-19 page and clicking the blue button, or by calling the provincial vaccine booking line at 1-833-943-3900.

Below are some facts about the COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11, based on recent studies of the vaccine in children:

- The vaccine protects children from COVID-19: the vaccine was 90.7% effective.
- No serious side effects were seen. The most common side effects were those that often happen with other vaccines: pain where the needle was injected, tiredness, headache, muscle pain and chills.
- The dose for children is one-third of the adult dose. This dose was selected in part because it led to fewer side effects than the adult dose.
- The vaccine for children is two injections given at least 21 days apart, and ideally 8 weeks apart.
- The creation of this vaccine followed all required steps for the development of any vaccine.

The COVID-19 vaccine can play an important role in keeping community transmission low and preventing school closures, which in turn is important for your child's mental and physical well-being.

We are learning more every day about the risks of COVID-19 for children. Some children who get COVID-19 - even those who are otherwise healthy - can end up in the hospital. Children who get COVID-19 can sometimes stay sick for many weeks or months - this is called Long COVID. We care about your children and don't want them to get sick from COVID-19. Vaccines work and they are a safe and important way to keep children healthy.

Here are some links to great resources:

[“Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for kids?”](https://setfht.on.ca/covid-19-vaccine-for-kids/)

<https://setfht.on.ca/covid-19-vaccine-for-kids/>

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