

Questions and Answers About COVID-19 Vaccines for Children



Why should children 6 months and older get vaccinated against COVID-19?

Children who get COVID-19 can get very sick and require treatment in a hospital. Vaccines continue to offer strong protection against the most severe outcomes of COVID-19. Vaccinating children can also give parents greater confidence in their children participating in childcare, school, and other activities.

Do children need one or two vaccines?

Children and teenagers need two vaccines. Children 6 months and older get a smaller dose than teenagers and adults.

Why do children get smaller doses?

Their immune systems are different than adults. The lower dose provides very good protection against COVID-19.

How long should we wait between the first and second doses for children?

Children should wait at least eight weeks between their first and second dose.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine affect puberty or fertility in children?

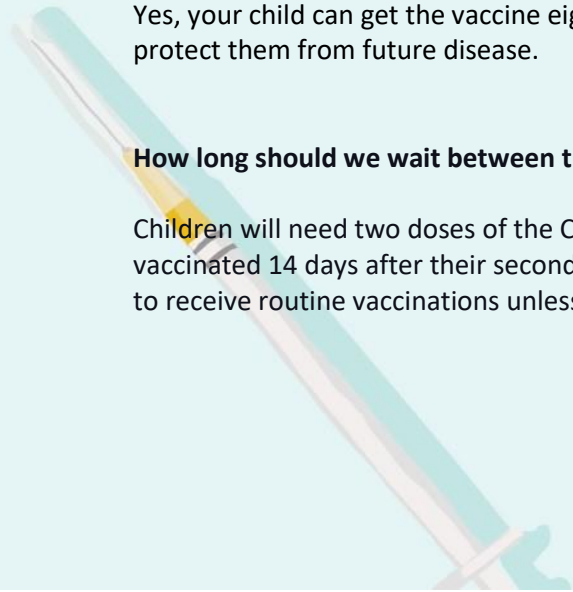
No. There is no evidence or scientific reason to believe that the COVID-19 vaccine will affect puberty or fertility.

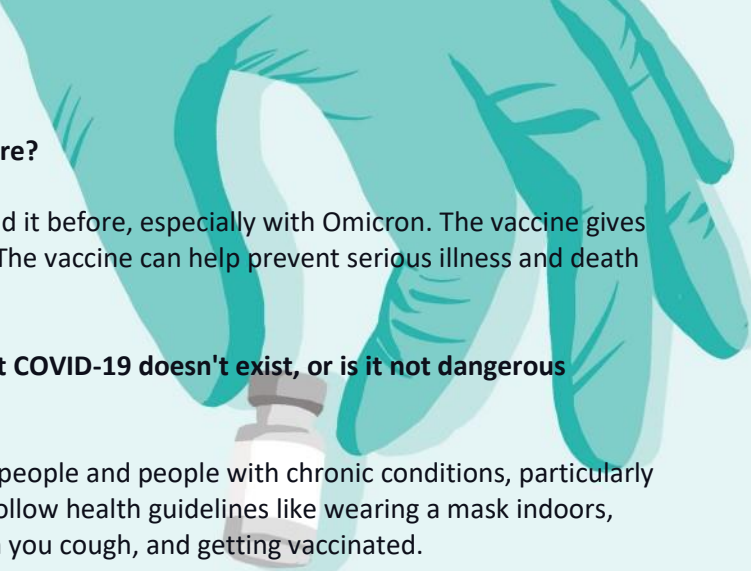
My child had COVID-19. Can the child get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, your child can get the vaccine eight weeks (2 months) after having COVID-19. The vaccine will still help protect them from future disease.

How long should we wait between the COVID vaccine and their scheduled school-age vaccines?

Children will need two doses of the COVID vaccine at least eight weeks apart and will be considered fully vaccinated 14 days after their second dose. A child should wait 14 days before or after the Covid-19 vaccine to receive routine vaccinations unless otherwise advised by a healthcare provider.





Can my child or I get COVID-19 if we have had it before?

Yes, you or your child can get COVID-19 if you have had it before, especially with Omicron. The vaccine gives you more protection, even if you already had COVID. The vaccine can help prevent serious illness and death if you get infected again.

Most restrictions are now lifted. Does that mean that COVID-19 doesn't exist, or is it not dangerous anymore?

No, COVID-19 still exists. It is still dangerous for older people and people with chronic conditions, particularly if they are not vaccinated. It is also still important to follow health guidelines like wearing a mask indoors, washing your hands often, covering your mouth when you cough, and getting vaccinated.

Proof of vaccination is no longer required to participate in non-essential events. Why then should my children or adults get the vaccine?

Vaccination protects you from serious illness and reduces your risk of passing it on to others. Getting vaccinated helps protect your children, your friends, and your community. Some activities and jobs will continue to require proof of vaccination (such as health care workers, teachers, hospital visitors, etc.). In addition, if you want to travel, you must be fully vaccinated to go to many places in Canada and the world.

Does the vaccine enter into the DNA of the human body? I have heard many stories that the vaccine interferes with changing the genes in the human body.

No, the mRNA vaccine does not affect your DNA. It does not even enter the nucleus of the cell. When the vaccine enters your body, it teaches the cells how to make a protein that will trigger your body's immune response. It does not become part of the cell or live in your cells.

Why do some people recover but still test positive?

A person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 can test positive with a PCR test for up to 90 days after becoming infected. This is because the PCR can detect a smaller amount of the virus material. This does not mean you are still infectious though.

If my child is immunocompromised, are they eligible for an additional dose?

Yes, immunocompromised children age 6 months to 4 years can receive one additional dose of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine 56 days after the second dose. Immunocompromised people (5 years or older) can receive one additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine 56 days after the second dose.

Where can my children get the COVID-19 vaccine?

At the pharmacy, a drop-in vaccine clinic, or the IWK.

How can my child get vaccinated?

Before you start:

- You need your child's valid Nova Scotia health card to book an appointment online.
- You need a telephone number in case you have to be contacted.

- Provide an email when you book an appointment. You will receive a confirmation email of the appointment, a reminder email the day before the appointment, and an email after the appointment with your child's vaccination record.

How to Book an Appointment:

You can book a Covid-19 vaccination appointment:

- Online for a clinic: <https://novascotia.flow.canimmunize.ca/en/covid-flu-booking>
- By phone by calling **1-833-797-7772** (Monday to Friday, 7am to 7pm and Saturday to Sunday, 10am to 6pm). You need to call from a Canadian phone number and be in Canada when you call. If a client needs interpretation, this is the best way to book an appointment (see "Available Interpretation Services" below)

For more information, check out ISANS's [How to Book a Vaccine Appointment - Project Beacon](#) website.

How to Find a Drop-in Clinic

Vaccines are also provided at various drop-in clinics. These locations and times change week to week. You can find the most up-to-date list of community clinics here: <https://www.nshealth.ca/drop-in-vaccine-clinics>.

Pharmacies also offer drop-in clinics: <https://pans.ns.ca/walk-covid-19-vaccine-clinics>

Available Interpretation Services

If a client needs service in a language other than English, they can ask for an interpreter when they book their appointment by phone 1-833-797-7772 (over 125 different languages are available). A specialist will go through all the health and screening questions with the clients and answer whatever concerns and hesitations clients have about vaccination.

Pharmacies also provide brochures in different languages that clients can read when they get their shot. There may also be staff onsite who can interpret.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

COVID-19 Vaccine

Vaccine safety and possible side effects

COVID-19 vaccine: Canadian Immunization Guide

COVID-19 vaccine for children and youth

Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC