

COVID-19 Vaccine Administration



Children 6 months to 5 years

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Moderna (Spikevax) Vaccine: 6 months - 5 years

Age	Recommended Intervals ³	Minimum Intervals ⁴
6 months to 5 years (Moderna)	Primary Series <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st dose• 2nd dose, 8 weeks after 1st dose Booster Doses - Not eligible	Primary Series <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st dose• 2nd dose, 28 days after 1st dose Booster Doses - Not eligible

³ There is emerging evidence that longer intervals between the first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccines result in more robust and durable immune response and higher vaccine effectiveness and may be associated with a lower risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis in adolescents and young adults. See the [Canadian Immunization Guide](#) for more information.

⁴ NACI's Minimum Interval Recommendation ([Table 1: Immunization schedule for a primary series, by COVID-19 vaccine](#)).

Administered intramuscularly as a primary series of two doses of 25 mcg each

Moderna (Spikevax) Vaccine: 6 months - 5 years

Presentation	Vial Cap Colour	Label Border Colour	Volume in vial	Number of 0.5 mL doses	Number of 0.25 mL doses
0.20 mg / mL	Red	Light blue	5 mL	10	20*
0.10 mg /mL	Royal blue	Purple	2.5 mL	5	10**

Presentation	Vial Cap Colour	Thaw time under refrigeration between 2° to 8°C (36° to 46°F)	Thaw time at room temperature between 15° to 25°C (59° to 77°F)
0.20 mg/mL	Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2 hours and 30 minutes <i>After thawing, let vial stand at room temperature for 15 minutes before administering.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 hour
0.10 mg/mL	Royal blue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2 hours <i>After thawing, let vial stand at room temperature for 15 minutes before administering.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">45 minutes

Co-administration with other Vaccines

- **NACI recommends that COVID-19 vaccines for children 6 months to 5 years of age should not routinely be given at the same time as other vaccines (live or non-live); recommended spacing of 14 days before and after COVID-19 vaccine.**
- **NACI acknowledges the challenges of multiple visits to receive all eligible and recommended immunizations and note that this suggested waiting period is precautionary.**
- **Moderna Spikevax (25 mcg) COVID-19 vaccine may be given concurrently or at a shortened interval between other vaccines as part of a clinician assessment.**
- **The Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS) recommends that COVID-19 vaccine be offered simultaneously with other required or routine vaccines to prevent further delay of routine immunizations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic**

Needle and Site Selection: 6 months - 5 years

Needle gauge	Age of vaccine recipient	Injection site	Needle Length
22-25	Infants (6-12 months)	Anterolateral thigh	2.2 cm-2.5 cm (7/8"-1")
	Young children (>12 months-5 years)	Deltoid muscle*	1.6cm-2.5cm (5/8"-1")

*preferred site; anterolateral thigh can also be used as injection site

Landmarking: Anterolateral Thigh

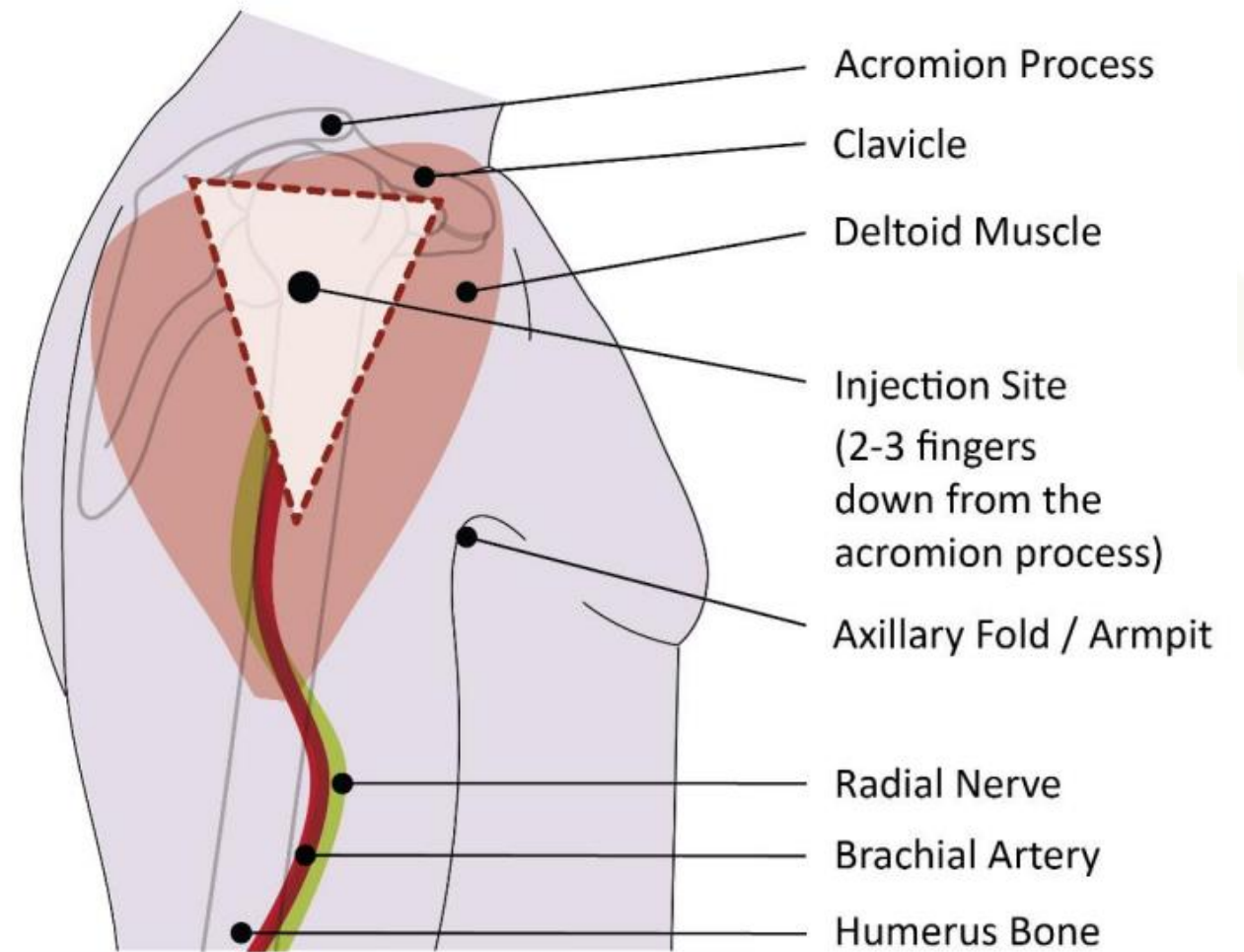
6-12 months



<https://canvax.ca/intramuscular-injection-vastus-lateralis-site>

Landmarking: Deltoid

>1 year



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5axQQpTzxAE>

Considerations for Clinic Planning

In Advance:

- **Allow for extra time between injections by setting up longer appointment slots (e.g., 15 mins)**
- **Prepare families and set expectations ahead of time (e.g., outline steps of vaccination process, include photos of the pharmacy layout on your website)**
- **Include additional information and resources during the booking process, such as tips to help caregivers prepare for what to expect when they arrive**
- **Discuss options for comfort from needle pain (e.g., numbing cream/patches applied ahead of appointment)**

Considerations for Clinic Planning

Pharmacy Space:

- Add kid-friendly distractions into your pharmacy space (e.g., posters, activity sheets, music)
- Create private spaces where children can't see others getting the shot to minimize triggers for fear
- Ensure you have enough space/seating for everyone
 - Space for strollers
- Organize your workflow to minimize time from check-in to injection

Considerations for Clinic Planning

During the Appointment:

- Be calm, patient, positive and promote coping strategies
- Be flexible and open to personalizing approach for each child
- For families with multiple kids, be thoughtful about the order of vaccinating—science has shown having the most fearful child vaccinated first minimizes anticipatory anxiety and may make the experience easier
- Use comfort positions that offer support from caregivers (e.g., sitting on lap, giving a hug)
- Remember that taking breaks and/or rescheduling the appointment may be appropriate options

Consider Using the CARD System



NERVOUS ABOUT GETTING NEEDLES?

Use the CARD system to have a more positive vaccination experience.

COMFORT

Find ways to get comfortable.



ASK

Ask questions to be prepared.



RELAX

Keep yourself calm.



DISTRACT

Shift your attention to something else.



The **CARD system (Comfort, Ask, Relax, Distract)** provides groups of strategies that can be used to make your vaccination experience a more positive one. Learn how you can play your cards and use the different strategies to reduce the pain, stress and worries associated with vaccinations. To learn more about CARD, go to CardSystem.ca.

Choose what CARDS you want to play. There's no wrong move. Look on the back for ideas.

CARD - Comfort

- Privacy
- Positioning
- Snacks/treats
- Comfort items
- Pain management

- video



COMFORT

Find ways to get comfortable.



CARD - Ask

- What is the vaccine for?
- What will happen?
- What will it feel like?

ASK

Ask questions to
be prepared.



CARD - Relax

- Privacy
- Deep breathing
- Support person
- Decreased noise/stimulation
- Breastfeeding if possible

RELAX

Keep yourself calm.



CARD - Distract

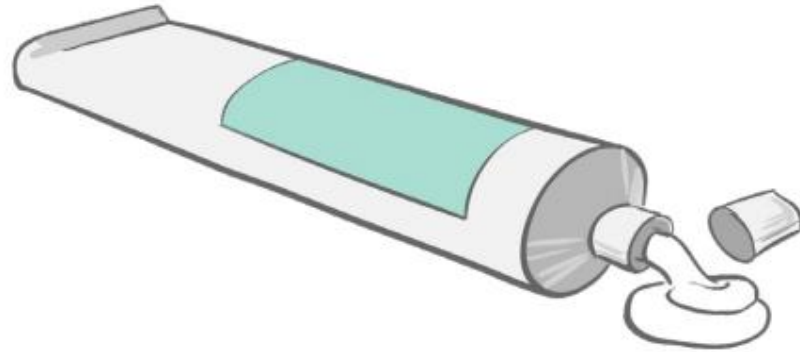
- Talk to someone
- Play a game/watch a video on phone
- Read
- Listen to music
- Look away
- Toys/activities
- Breastfeeding if possible

DISTRACT

Shift your attention to something else.



Pain Management



Infants and toddlers:

- **Breastfeeding**
- **Holding**
- **Sugar water**
- **Topical anesthetics**
- **Distraction**

Young children:

- **Plan ahead**
- **Positioning**
- **Topical anesthetics**
- **Distraction**

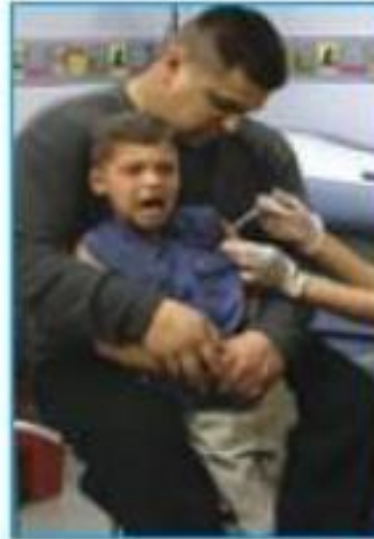
Positioning – Infants and Toddlers



Have parent hold the child on parent's lap.

1. One of the child's arms embraces the parent's back and is held under the parent's arm.
2. The other arm is controlled by the parent's arm and hand. For infants, the parent can control both arms with one hand.
3. Both legs are anchored with the child's feet held firmly between the parent's thighs, and controlled by the parent's other arm.

Positioning – Pre-School Children




Hold the child on parent's lap or have the child stand in front of the seated parent.

1. Parent's arms embrace the child during the process.
2. Both legs are firmly between parent's legs.

Post-counselling and Observation

- Advise about reporting and management of common side effects
 - Advise to notify healthcare provider about adverse events
 - Allows for assessment and completion of AEFI report if warranted
 - 15 minute post-vaccination observation under routine conditions
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Anaphylaxis Management

- **Call EMS**
 - **Assess ABC's, mental status, skin, body weight**
 - **Place in supine position with lower extremities elevated**
 - **Administer epinephrine**
 - **IM in anterolateral thigh**
 - **Repeat doses q5 minutes if symptoms persist, recording time of each dose**
 - **Stabilize**
 - **Monitor**
 - **Transfer to hospital**
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Epinephrine Administration - Dosage

Age	Weight (kg)	Epinephrine dose (1mg/mL) mg/kg/dose	Epinephrine dose (1mg/mL) Volume (mL)	Autoinjector dose
Greater than 5 kg and less than 2 years	5-10	0.1 mg	0.1 mL	0.15 mg
2 to less than 4 years	11-15	0.15 mg	0.15 mL	
4 to less than 7 years	16-20	0.2mg	0.2 mL	
	21-25	0.25 mg	0.25 mL	0.3 mg

References

https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19_vaccine_administration.pdf

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<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-1-key-immunization-information/page-8-vaccine-administration-practices.html>

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https://assets.aboutkidshealth.ca/AKHAssets/CARD_Vaccination_Handout.pdf

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<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-2-vaccine-safety/page-4-early-vaccine-reactions-including-anaphylaxis.html>

<https://gotodocs.wdgpublichealth.ca/sites/SupportServices/PandPs/CA.40.01.104%20Administration%20of%20Epinephrine.pdf>