

COVID-19 Vaccine Bulletin #38

Children 5 - 11

Quick Updates

- Review Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health's (WDGPH) vaccination progress: [COVID-19 Vaccination Report](#)
- ***NEW***: [Health Canada approved](#) Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine for children 5 to 11 years old.
 - Review WDGPH's [Physician Advisory](#) and [Media Release](#) from November 18, 2021 for an overview of the local rollout for vaccines for children 5-11.
 - Review the [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\) Recommendations on the Use of Pfizer-BioNTech in Children 5-11 Years of Age](#)
 - Additional information is available on WDGPH's webpage: wdgpublichealth.ca/vaccine-kids.
- Primary care offices who need vaccination support can contact WDGPH at **519-822-2714 ext. 7010**. For less urgent questions email: HCP.COVID19questions@wdgpublichealth.ca.
- **REMINDER**: [Vaccine administration information is available in the health care provider section of our website](#). Resources will be added for children 5-11 as they become available.

Overview of Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 5-11

Safety & Side Effects

- Overall, the Pfizer vaccine was well tolerated in children 5-11 years of age.
- Local reactions were very common and mostly mild to moderate in severity. Compared to participants ≥ 12 years of age, children 5-11 years of age had similar frequencies of pain at the injection site and higher frequencies of swelling and redness.
- Systemic events were predominantly fatigue, headaches, muscle pain, chills, fever, and joint pain (in descending order of frequency) and occurred more frequently after the second dose. Compared to participants ≥ 12 years of age, children 5-11 years of age had comparable systemic reactions and some events were less frequent (e.g., fever, chills, headache, and fatigue).
- No serious adverse events related to the vaccine, no cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C), myocarditis/pericarditis or deaths were reported.

Myocarditis & Pericarditis

- Cases of myocarditis and pericarditis have been reported following vaccination with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines among individuals aged 12 years and older, however the risk is considered rare. Data from the US suggest the risk of myocarditis/pericarditis following vaccination may be higher in older adolescents (aged 16-17 years) compared to younger adolescents (12-15 years). Emerging Canadian surveillance data also suggest an extended interval between the first and second dose may reduce the risk of myocarditis/pericarditis associated with the second dose.
- It is currently unknown whether myocarditis/pericarditis will occur after the lower doses of mRNA contained in the pediatric vaccines for children 5-11 years of age.

Efficacy

- The estimated efficacy of the vaccine against symptomatic COVID-19 infection from 7 days after dose 2 was 90.7%.
- None of the identified cases met the criteria for a severe case of COVID-19, therefore the vaccine efficacy against severe outcomes such as hospitalization is unknown.

Immunization Schedule for Primary Series

Vaccine Product	Dose	Immunization Schedule	Minimum Interval	Authorized Interval	NACI Recommended Interval
Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty (10 mcg)	0.2ml	2-dose	19 days	21 days	At least 8 weeks

Summary of NACI Recommendations

- Complete series of Pfizer vaccine (10mcg) is offered to children 5-11 without contraindications with a dosing interval of 8 weeks.
- Children with a history of MIS-C, vaccination should be postponed until they have recovered, or it has been ≥ 90 days since diagnosis (whichever is longer).
- COVID-19 vaccines for children 5-11 years old should not routinely be given concomitantly (i.e., same day/time) with other vaccines. It would be prudent to wait for a period of at least 14 days before or after the administration of another vaccine before administering a COVID-19 vaccine to prevent erroneous attribution of an adverse event to a vaccine.
 - This suggested minimum waiting period between vaccines is precautionary at this time. NACI notes that feasibility may be challenging and decisions about

concomitant administration or shortened intervals are at the clinical discretion of the healthcare provider.

- Children who receive the pediatric (10mcg) Pfizer vaccine for their first dose and who have turned 12 years of age by the time the second dose is due may receive the adult/adolescent (30mcg) Pfizer vaccine that is authorized for those aged 12 years of age and older.
- Consistent with the recommendations for adolescents and adults, the second dose of mRNA should be deferred in children who experience myocarditis or pericarditis after their first dose until more information is available.

References

National Advisory Committee on Immunization. [Recommendation on the Use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine \(10mcg\) in Children 5-11 Years of Age](#). November 19, 2021.

Walter, E. B., et al. (November 9, 2021) [Evaluation of the BNT162b2 COVID-19 Vaccine in Children 5 to 11 Years of Age](#). New England Journal of Medicine.

Adult/adolescent vs. Pediatric Formulations of Pfizer Vaccine

	Adult/adolescent Formulation	Pediatric Formulation
Age	≥12 years of age	5-11 years
Vial Cap Colour	Purple	Orange
Diluent	1.8ml	1.3ml
Dose	0.3ml/30mcg	0.2ml/10mcg
Doses per vial	6	10
Potential allergens	Polyethylene glycol (PEG)	Polyethylene glycol (PEG) Tromethamine (Tris, Trometamol)
Supplies	Low dead volume needle/syringe	Low dead volume needle/syringe
Storage		
Ultra-frozen (-90°C to -60°C)	Until expiry date	6 months from the date of manufacture
Frozen (-25°C to -15°C)	2 weeks	Do not store frozen
Refrigeration (2°C to 8°C)	1 month	10 weeks
Room Temperature (Up to 25°C)	2 hours prior to dilution 6 hours after dilution	12 hours prior to dilution 12 hours after dilution

Information Sessions

Getting Kids Back to Being Kids: COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children 5-11

Friday November 26, 2021 8:00 to 9:15 a.m.

- Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, and Dr. Daniel Warshafsky, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, will share current information regarding the safety and efficacy of the vaccine in children ages 5-11, and the provincial roll-out plans, followed by a panel of professionals providing an overview of implementation through a variety of lenses. A moderated Q&A will follow the discussion.
- Register to attend by clicking [HERE](#).

Learning to Play Your CARDS: The Childhood Vaccination Experience

Tuesday November 23, 2021 10:00 to 11:00 from Public Health Ontario

- Overview of the Comfort, Ask, Relax, Distract (CARD) system to reduce immunization stress-related responses and promote more positive vaccination experiences.
- Register to attend by clicking [HERE](#).

COVID-19 Vaccination in Children Age 5 to 11 years (2 parts)

Presentations from November 5 and 19 from the Community of Practice Information Sessions from U of T Department of Family and Community Medicine and the OFCP

- Access recordings and slide decks/resources [HERE](#).

WDGPH Virtual COVID-19 Vaccine Parent and Caregiver Information Night

Thursday December 2, 2021 at 7:00 pm

- Register to attend [HERE](#).

Vaccine Consult Services

Sick Kids' COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service

- Ontario residents can talk to a paediatric Registered Nurse to get your questions answered about the COVID-19 vaccine for children and youth. This province-wide service is available in many languages, using over-the-phone interpretations.
- Visit sickkids.ca/vaccineconsult or call **437-881-3505** to book a phone appointment.

Reliable Sources of Information on Vaccines

[WDGPH Vaccine Administration Training](#)

[Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

[Government of Ontario](#)

[Ministry of Health](#)

[Public Health Ontario](#)

[Centre for Effective Practice \(CEP\)](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

[COVID-19 Studies from the World Health Organization Database](#)

[Centres for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)