

# WHAT ARE THE REASONS TO VACCINATE MY YOUNG CHILD AGAINST COVID-19? (6 months to 5 years old)

✓ **The Moderna (Spikevax™) mRNA vaccine is approved by Health Canada for children 6 months and older.**



## mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are safe



**Vaccines lower the risk of getting sick from COVID-19.**

Children can get COVID-19 more than once. We are still learning about the health effects of COVID-19 infections.

**Data from older children and teens shows that vaccines lower the risk of complications from COVID-19.**

COVID-19 is a leading cause of hospitalization and death in young children. Children can get multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C). MIS-C is rare, but very serious. It causes inflammation of the heart, lungs, kidney, brain, skin, eyes, and stomach.

COVID-19 can also cause Long COVID in children. Symptoms like cough and tiredness can last for months.

- More than **500,000** children under age 5 and more than **12 million** 5 to 11-year-old children in North America have had at least 1 COVID-19 vaccine.\* Most children have had the Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty™) vaccine.
- Serious vaccine side effects are expected to be rare for young children. **There were no safety concerns in the Moderna vaccine trial.**
- Serious allergic reactions to COVID-19 vaccines are very rare. **Children with allergic conditions can be vaccinated safely.**
- Myocarditis (inflammation of the heart) after a COVID-19 vaccine is expected to be very rare in young children.
- Long-term side effects are not expected. Vaccine ingredients are gone from the body in 2 to 3 days.

**Vaccines do not affect fertility, genes (DNA), or hormones.**

\*[https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations\\_vacc-people-additional-dose-totalpop](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations_vacc-people-additional-dose-totalpop)  
<https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/vaccination-coverage/>

Learn more about COVID-19 mRNA vaccines for children here:  
[https://uwaterloo.ca/pharmacy/sites/ca.pharmacy/files/uploads/files/faq\\_covid-19\\_vaccines\\_for\\_children.pdf](https://uwaterloo.ca/pharmacy/sites/ca.pharmacy/files/uploads/files/faq_covid-19_vaccines_for_children.pdf)

### You may decide to vaccinate your young child sooner if:

- They (or someone they live with) is at higher risk of severe illness (e.g., low birth weight, asthma, health conditions, or medication that affect the immune system).
- There is a lot of COVID-19 in your community.
- They are in regular contact with a lot of people (e.g., attend daycare).

### You may decide to wait to vaccinate your young child if:

- They had COVID-19 recently. Experts recommend waiting 2 months after a COVID-19 infection to get a COVID-19 vaccine. **Getting vaccinated after an infection can give longer-lasting protection.**
- COVID-19 levels in your community are low. **COVID-19 levels can change very quickly.**



**Vaccines work with other measures to protect young children & those around them. Wear a high-quality mask indoors, avoid crowded spaces & wash your hands often to lower the risk of COVID-19.**

