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

**Moderna (Spikevax™) & Pfizer (Comirnaty®) mRNA vaccines are approved by Health Canada for children (6 months and older).**

1. **mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are safe.**

2. **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.

3. **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.

You may decide to **vaccinate** your young child sooner if:
- They (or someone they live with) are at higher risk of severe illness (e.g., low birth weight, asthma, health conditions, or taking 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 most children get an initial vaccine dose 8 weeks after a COVID-19 infection.³
  - Waiting may give stronger long-term protection.

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.

More than 1.6 million children under the age of 5 have had at least 1 COVID-19 vaccine in North America.¹²
- Serious vaccine side effects are **rare** for young children.³,⁴
- Serious allergic reactions to COVID-19 vaccines are **very rare**. Children with allergic conditions can be vaccinated safely.
- There have **not been any cases** of myocarditis reported in Canada or the United States in this age group after vaccination.³,⁴
- 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.

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¹ https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#/vaccinations_vacc-peoples-additional-dose-totalpop
² https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/vaccine-administration/#a2
³ https://www.cdc.gov/mmWR/volumes/71/wr/mm7135a3.htm
⁴ https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/vaccine-safety/#a3

For questions about the reproduction, adaptation, translation, or other uses of this material, contact: phrcpd@uwaterloo.ca

Focused Covid Communication is: Andrea Chittle, MD, CCFP. Kelly Grindrod, BscPharm, PharmD. Noah Ivers, MD, PhD, CCFP. Samira Jeimy, MD, PhD, FRCP. Kate Miller, MD, CCFP. Menaka Pai, MSc, MD, FRCP. Adrian Poon, BA. Sabina Vohra-Miller, MSc. Kristan Watt, BScPhm, RPh. Holly Witterman, PhD. Samantha Yammine, PhD. Reviewed by: Rosemary Killeen, BScPhm, PGCert, RPh.