

Important Information

**COVID-19 Vaccine:
Immunization Clinics
for 5 to 11 Year Olds**



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Health Canada has approved the Pfizer/Comirnaty™ COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 years, providing a safe and effective way for families to protect their children against COVID-19.

Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to protect our families, communities and ourselves against COVID-19, by reducing the spread of the virus and protecting ourselves from getting sick with COVID-19.

Although less likely than adults, children can get sick from COVID-19. Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 27 children hospitalized from COVID-19 infection or multisystem inflammatory syndrome-children (MIS-C), with seven admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU). While most children will experience mild symptoms or no symptoms, they can still spread the virus to others in their family, at school and in the community. Reducing the spread of the virus is in all of our best interests, so that we can feel safer and get back to freely enjoying our regular lifestyles.

To make it easier for your child to get the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, public health teams will begin offering the vaccine to children in schools across the province starting in early December. To be eligible, children must be at least five years old at the time of vaccination.

Please review information about the risks and benefits of vaccination as well as details about what makes the COVID-19 vaccine for children different from the vaccine for teens and adults at manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html. You can also find information and resources at protectmb.ca/youth-covid-19-vaccines/ on how to prepare your child for immunization, including techniques to reduce feelings of anxiety, pain and fear of getting needles.

If you would like to be with your child when they get their vaccine, after-hours clinics will also be available at some schools, which will also be open to members of the community. You will get more information before the clinic date, letting you know when the COVID-19 vaccine will be available in your child's school.

If you would like your child to receive the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine at school, you must complete a consent form. If your child will receive the vaccine at school during school hours, you can complete an eConsent (electronic consent) form; this will be available at <https://immunizationconsent.manitoba.ca/> beginning December 2, 2021. The eConsent form is the preferred consent form for children who will receive their vaccine at school during school hours, but the printable or online consent form (available at protectmb.ca/youth-covid-19-vaccines/) will also be accepted. If your child will receive the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine at school outside of school hours, or at another venue, please use the printable or online consent form.

For households that can not access or print an online consent form, you can get a paper consent form and fact sheet from your child's school. After you complete the consent form, please have your child return this form to their teacher.

The COVID-19 vaccine for children will also be available at participating doctor's offices, pharmacies, urban indigenous clinics and vaccine clinics (also known as a supersite or pop-up clinic). Visit the COVID-19 & Influenza (Flu) Vaccine Finder (manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/finder.html) to search for locations that offer the COVID-19 vaccine near you.

Thank you for making time to learn and talk about vaccination with your family members. I encourage you to reach out to your family's health care providers or Health Links/Info-Santé with any questions you may have and to visit protectmb.ca for ongoing updates.

Sincerely,

"Original signed by"

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