

Answer Questions About COVID-19 Vaccines for Kids 12 and Up

You'll get questions about **vaccinating kids against COVID-19**...now that Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccine is authorized for age 12 and up.

Preliminary evidence suggests this vaccine has high efficacy at preventing COVID-19 in children age 12 to 15...with side effects similar to patients age 16 or older.

No cases of symptomatic COVID-19 occurred in the vaccinated group versus 16 in the placebo group...in the study of 2,260 kids age 12 to 15.

Expect data with the Moderna vaccine in children down to age 12 soon...and with AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen later this year.

Help boost vaccine confidence among parents and adolescents.

For instance, parents may ask why their child should be vaccinated...since most kids who get COVID-19 only have mild illness.

Educate that kids can also have "long-haul" symptoms (fatigue, etc)...or serious complications, such as multisystem inflammatory syndrome.

Point out that vaccinating children may help protect others...such as elderly grandparents or immunocompromised friends or family.

Clarify that COVID-19 vaccines do not affect DNA...and there's no evidence that ANY vaccine leads to infertility. Also explain that COVID-19 vaccines aren't live...so they can't cause "viral shedding."

Expect to see more pharmacies giving the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine now that Health Canada is allowing more flexible storage...undiluted vials can now be stored at fridge temperature for up to 1 month.

Give kids age 12 to 15 the same dose of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine as other patients... 0.3 mL IM in the deltoid, with a second dose 3 weeks later, or according to your provincial schedule.

Use a 1-inch needle for most adolescents. If you choose to use a 5/8-inch needle for smaller kids, stretch the skin tightly when injecting.

Monitor for at least 15 minutes after vaccination. Recommend sitting...since fainting is common in adolescents after any vaccine.

Get more talking points about the benefits of immunization in our FAQ, Communicating About COVID-19 Vaccination. And see our chart, COVID-19 Vaccines, for doses, updated storage requirements, and more.

Key References:

-<https://covid-vaccine.canada.ca/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine/product-details> (5-26-21)

-www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/05/health-canada-authorizes-use-of-the-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-in-children-12-to-15-years-of-age.html (5-26-21)

-www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/drugs-vaccines-treatments/vaccines/pfizer-biontech.html (5-26-21)

Pharmacist's Letter Canada. June 2021, No. 370601

Cite this document as follows: Article, Answer Questions About COVID-19 Vaccines for Kids 12 and Up, Pharmacist's Letter Canada, June 2021

The content of this article is provided for educational and informational purposes only, and is not a substitute for the advice, opinion or diagnosis of a trained medical professional. If your organization is interested in an enterprise subscription, email sales@trchealthcare.com.

© 2021 Therapeutic Research Center (TRC). TRC and Pharmacist's Letter Canada and the associated logo(s) are trademarks of Therapeutic Research Center. All Rights Reserved. | 3120 W. March Lane, Stockton, CA, 95219 | (209) 472-2240