

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Information

AGES 6 MONTHS TO 4 YEARS

Please read this information sheet carefully and ensure all your questions have been answered by a healthcare provider before your child receives their vaccine. This information sheet is specifically for the Moderna Spikevax vaccine for children between the ages of 6 months to 4 years. For children that are 5 years old or who turn 5 years old between doses, they will be recommended to receive the Pfizer 5 to 11 year old product as eligible.

What vaccine will my child receive?

Your child will receive the Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine.

- Children between 6 months and 4 years receive 25 mcg per dose.
- The product that infants will receive in the Yukon is a new lower dose formulation compared to the Moderna vaccine that adults in the Yukon receive.
- Children 5 years and older will continue to receive the Pfizer Comirnaty pediatric vaccine.
- If your child turns 5 between dose one and dose two, they will be recommended to receive the Pfizer Comirnaty vaccine to finish their series.

How is the vaccine given?

Your child will need 2 (sometimes 3*) doses of Moderna Spikevax vaccine to get full protection. This is called the primary series.

If your child is 6 months to 1 year of age, they will receive the vaccine via a needle in the upper, outer thigh. If your child is 1 year of age or older, they will receive the vaccine via a needle in their upper arm (deltoid muscle). The vaccine doses are recommended to be given 8 weeks apart. Evidence shows an 8 week interval between first and second doses results in:

- Stronger immune response.
- Higher vaccine effectiveness that is expected to last longer.
- Fewer side effects.

How do mRNA vaccines work?

- mRNA vaccines teach your body to protect itself against COVID-19 without getting sick from the virus.
- The vaccine causes our body to produce antibodies to help keep us from becoming sick if we are exposed to the COVID-19 virus.

What are the benefits of the vaccine?

- Vaccines are the best protection against COVID-19 infection. For this age group, the risks of severe disease are low. We continue to recommend COVID-19 vaccination in order to reduce the risk of Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome, a rare condition that can occur in some children infected with COVID-19.

Who can get the COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccines have now been approved for those aged 6 months and older. In the Yukon, the following COVID-19 vaccines are available:

- Children between 6 months and 4 years old receive the Moderna Spikevax vaccine, in a 25 microgram dose
- Children aged 5 to 11 receive Pfizer Comirnaty pediatric vaccine, in a 10 microgram dose
- Youth and adults aged 12 to 29 receive Pfizer Comirnaty vaccine, in a 30 microgram dose
- Adults aged 30 and older receive the Moderna Spikevax vaccine, in a 100 microgram dose

Who should not receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

- Anyone younger than 6 months old. There are currently no COVID-19 vaccines approved for children in this age range.
- Anyone with symptoms that could be due to COVID-19 should wait to be vaccinated so that they do not spread infection to others at the vaccine clinic. Talk with a healthcare provider, call 811, or arrange to get tested for COVID-19.
- Anyone with a known allergy to polyethylene glycol (PEG)** or who has had an allergic reaction from an unknown cause should speak with their healthcare provider.
- People who had a serious or allergic reaction to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine should talk to their healthcare provider before getting their second dose.

*A third dose of vaccine is recommended for some people who have a severely weakened immune system, as they may not develop a strong immune response to the vaccine.

** Polyethylene glycol (PEG) can rarely cause allergic reactions. It is found in products such as medications, bowel preparation products for colonoscopy, laxatives, cough syrup, cosmetics, skin creams, medical products used on the skin and during operations, toothpaste, contact lenses and contact lens solution. PEG can also be found in foods or drinks but is not known to cause allergic reactions from foods or drinks.

Note: Rare cases of inflammation of the heart (myocarditis and pericarditis) have been reported after getting the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines. In Canada, this has occurred at a rate of about 3 cases per 100,000 doses of Moderna SPIKEVAX vaccine and 1.9 cases per 100,000 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine. Cases are seen more often after the second dose and in males 12-29 years of age.

This very rare reaction was not observed during the Moderna Spikevax trial for ages 6 months to 4 years and the benefits continue to outweigh the risks.

For more information visit www.yukon.ca/en/heart-inflammation-and-covid-19-mrna-vaccines