COVID-19 VACCINES
FOR YOUTH AGE 12 TO 17

COVID-19 is a viral infection. Most children with COVID-19 will have either mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. Some children can get very sick and may require hospitalization.

Vaccinating children protects them from serious illness and hospitalization and reduces the spread of the virus within their household and the community. Children can spread COVID-19 to other people, even if they do not have symptoms.

When a large percentage of the population becomes immune to COVID-19, the spread of the virus will slow down or stop. Vaccination is our best shot for allowing individuals, families and workers to safely resume normal life, and for our children and youth to return to the things they love and miss

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Approved for Children 12 Years of Age and Older

- Health Canada has authorized the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in children 12 years of age and older after clinical studies showed the vaccine was safe and effective for this age group
- The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was found to be 100% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 illness in adolescents
- Health Canada will only approve a vaccine that is safe for widespread use

Eligibility

- Due to manufacturer requirements from Pfizer-BioNTech, individuals must be age 12 at the time of vaccination
- The COVID-19 vaccine is free and voluntary
- Individuals 13 years of age and under require a parent or legal guardian to provide consent at the time of the vaccination. If a parent or legal guardian is unable to accompany their 12 and/or 13-year-old child to the appointment, they then can complete and sign a consent form and send it with the child to the appointment
- Parents and guardians are encouraged to speak to their child about COVID-19 vaccines including the risks and benefits of getting vaccinated
- The vaccine is safe for most youth, including those with a health condition such a diabetes or a weak immune system; it is also safe for individuals who are pregnant or breastfeeding

How the Vaccine Works

- Pfizer-BioNTech is a messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine
- The vaccine works by teaching our cells how to make a specific protein that will trigger an immune response
- Once triggered, our body then makes antibodies which help us fight infection if we are exposed to the real virus in the future
- Two doses of the vaccine are required for the best protection
- Beginning about two weeks after the first dose, the vaccine is very effective at preventing COVID-19 infection, serious illness, hospitalization and death

You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine. The vaccines do _not_ contain the virus.

Stay safe. Stay informed.
york.ca/COVID19VaccineInfo

York Region

Side Effects

- Side effects after vaccination are often part of the body's natural response to a vaccine
- Side effects are usually mild to moderate and temporary, only lasting for a few hours or days

Common side effects include:

- Redness, pain or swelling at the injection site
- Feeling tired
- Chills
- Muscle aches
- Fever
- Nausea
- Headache
- Joint pain

> **As some side effects can also be like symptoms of COVID-19, speak to your health care provider to determine if you need further assessment if you have any concerns.**

Allergies

- If you experienced a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous dose or component of the Pfizer-BioNTech, you should not receive the vaccine; detailed ingredient lists are available at canada.ca/COVID19
- If you experienced a less severe allergic reaction to a previous dose or a component of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, you must talk to your health care provider before you receive the vaccine; you are required to bring a letter to your appointment confirming the vaccine can be administered
- The Pfizer vaccine does not contain eggs, gelatin (pork), gluten, latex, preservatives, antibiotics, or aluminum and is safe even if you have food, drug, or environmental allergies

> **Delay vaccination if you have a fever or COVID-19 symptoms, are confirmed, or suspected to have COVID-19, or have received a flu shot or other vaccine in the past 14 days.**

Speak with your health care provider first before receiving the vaccine if you:

- Have an autoimmune disorder undergoing certain treatments, weakened immunity due to illness or treatment; in this case, you will be required to complete an Attestation Form prior to receiving a vaccine
- A consultation with a health care provider is recommended, but not required, for those who are pregnant, could be pregnant or are breastfeeding, as well as those who have an autoimmune condition, immunodeficiency condition or are immunosuppressed but are NOT on any of the treatments listed in the Attestation Form

Continue following public health safety measures after vaccination

WEAR A MASK OR FACE COVERING **MAINTAIN A PHYSICAL DISTANCE** (2-METRES) **WASH YOUR HANDS** **MONITOR YOUR HEALTH**

Studies are ongoing to determine the long-term protection of COVID-19 vaccines

There is still a chance you can contract COVID-19 after being vaccinated and it is currently unknown if you can transmit the virus after being immunized

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Visit **york.ca/COVID19VaccineInfo** for more information and to book your appointment.

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