



Provincial
Council for
Maternal and
Child Health

building a brighter future

5 Things to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines for Children with Medical Complexities (aged 5+)

February 2022 (version 1)

1

What are the benefits of the vaccine?

Children with medical complexity (CMC) have a higher chance of getting really sick from COVID-19. **The vaccine for children is safe and is the best protection for your child and family against COVID-19.**

Most children experience mild side effects (e.g. tired, chills, sore arm) and will feel better in a few days. There are **no long-term side effects** reported.

2

Are there any side effects?

These **side effects are extremely rare**. They are more likely to occur after a COVID-19 infection than after COVID-19 vaccination.

3

What is the risk of myocarditis & pericarditis?

Myocarditis = inflammation of the heart muscle
Pericarditis = inflammation of the lining around the heart

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine **does not interfere with medications**. Continue with regular medications as prescribed, unless instructed otherwise by care team.

4

Will the vaccine interfere with medications?

Consider strategies that have worked well for your child in the past. Speak with your care team to create a plan and ensure a **positive experience for you and your child.**

5

How can I support my child during vaccination?

COVID-19 vaccination is safe and effective. Speak with your complex care team if you have specific questions related to your child's medical condition(s) and about COVID-19 vaccination.

Do you have more questions about COVID-19 Vaccines?

- Speak with your complex care team to discuss your child's specific needs and concerns.
- Call the SickKids COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service at 1-888-304-6558 or book online at www.sickkids.ca/vaccineconsult

Visit the links below for factual and up-to-date information:

About Kids Health

<https://www.aboutkidshealth.ca/Article?contentid=4001&language=English>

Kids Health First

<https://kidshealthfirst.ca/pages/children>

Children's Health Coalition

<https://www.parenthomework.ca/faqs>

Children's Healthcare Canada

<https://www.childrenshealthcarecanada.ca/covid19-vaccine-and-canadas-kids>

Government of Ontario

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-children-and-youth>

What have we heard from children with medical complexity and their families?

"We decided to vaccinate our medically complex 5-year-old after consulting with his medical team and wanting to do our part in protecting him, our loved ones, our community, our strained healthcare system, and those who cannot be vaccinated."

"As a parent of a highly vulnerable child I could finally breathe again when offered the vaccine... We could finally have access to respite, services, friends and family again in a much safer way... Vaccination moved us one step closer to living our best life again."

"(After) discussions with the medical team, we chose to vaccinate... as any potential side effects from the vaccine would pale in comparison to them catching COVID-19."

"He has not had any significant side effects from the vaccine, and we do not regret having him vaccinated."

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, January 24). Preparing for your COVID-19 Vaccination. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/prepare-for-vaccination.html>

Forbes, N., Montry, J., Krishan, R., Zafack, J., Wong, E., Tunis, M., . . . Deeks, S. (2022, January 25). NACI updated recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in children 5 to 11 years of age. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/updated-recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines-children-5-11-years-age.html#shr-pg0>

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SickKids - AboutKidsHealth. (2022, January 25). COVID-19 vaccine information for children (ages five to 11). Retrieved from <https://www.aboutkidshealth.ca/Article?contentid=4001&language=English>