

2024-25 Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine (12+ years)

NOTE: For children 12 years and older, a signed consent form is required when a parent/guardian is not present.

What is COVID-19?

- COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that is passed from an infected person to others when the infected person coughs, sneezes, sings, talks or breathes.
- Infected people can spread the infection even if they have no symptoms.
- **Symptoms of COVID-19** can include cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, tiredness and loss of smell or taste. Some people infected with the virus have no symptoms at all, while others have symptoms that range from mild to severe.

How can I prevent getting or spreading COVID-19?

- Get immunized to protect yourself and those around you.
- Stay home when you feel sick.
- Practice good hygiene (e.g., handwashing).
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to clean your hands if soap and water are unavailable.
- Cover your mouth when coughing and your nose and mouth when sneezing to prevent direct contact with droplets from the nose or throat.
- Clean and disinfect all surfaces regularly.

Who can receive this COVID-19 vaccine?

- **Individuals 12 years and older.**
- Immune competent people, even if they have not received a prior COVID-19 vaccine dose, get 1 dose at least 8 weeks after their last dose.
- Immune compromised people may require additional doses.
- It is important to know that you/your child cannot get COVID-19 infection from the vaccine.

Who should not have this COVID-19 vaccine?

- Persons who have a serious acute illness, with or without a fever, should delay immunizations until they feel better.
- Children younger than 12 years old.
- People who had a serious or anaphylactic reaction to a previous COVID-19 vaccine, or any components in this vaccine until they have been assessed by a physician.

Precautions

- Individuals who had a recent COVID-19 infection may consider delaying immunization but can be immunized once they feel better. Check with your healthcare provider for current recommendations.
- Individuals receiving treatment with immunosuppressive medications or have an autoimmune disease that affects the neurological system, should contact their healthcare provider to determine the best time to be immunized.
- Stem cell transplant recipients must consult their healthcare provider prior to getting immunized.
- Individuals with a history of multisystem inflammatory syndrome should wait to be vaccinated until clinical recovery has been achieved, including return to baseline cardiac function; and it has been at least 90 days after this diagnosis.
- Individuals who developed myocarditis (inflammation of the heart) or pericarditis (inflammation of the outer lining of the heart) following a previous COVID-19 vaccine should consult with their healthcare provider prior to getting immunized.

What are possible reactions to this vaccine?

- Vaccines are very safe. It is much safer to get the vaccine than to get COVID-19.
- Temporary reactions may include:
 - Pain, warmth, redness and swelling at the injection site and/or limited movement of the immunized arm or leg.
 - Swollen and tender lymph nodes in the underarm (resolves in up to 7-10 days).
 - Headache, muscle aches, stiffness, joint pain, fever, chills, rash, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite.

Rare reactions

- Myocarditis and pericarditis. Go to Emergency or call 911 right away if you/your child have chest pain, shortness of breath, irregular heartbeat, or a very fast or pounding heartbeat any time after being immunized.
- Erythema multiforme is an allergic skin. Symptoms are round red, raised areas all over the body, and on the fingers and toes. These patches often look like “targets” (dark circles with purple-grey centers). The skin condition may reoccur and usually lasts for 2-4 weeks each time.
- Bell’s palsy (weakness or paralysis on one side of the face that is often temporary). Symptoms usually resolve within a month.
- It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine because there is an extremely rare possibility of a life-threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This may include hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. This reaction can be treated and occurs in less than one in one million people who get the vaccine.

If this happens after you leave the clinic, get medical attention or call 911 right away.

Who should you report reactions to?

- If you have any concerns about the symptoms you/your child develop after receiving the vaccine, call 811. If you or your child received your vaccination from a pharmacist, please consult them first when possible.
- For more information, please speak with the person providing the vaccine or contact your local public health office, your physician, nurse practitioner, or by calling 811.

Mature Minor Consent

- It is recommended that parents/guardians discuss consent for immunization with their children. Efforts are first made to get parental/guardian consent for immunizations. However, children at least 13 years of age up to and including 17 years of age, who can understand the benefits and possible reactions for each vaccine and the risks of not getting immunized, can legally consent to or refuse immunizations in Saskatchewan by providing mature minor informed consent to a healthcare provider.

Use **Acetaminophen** (all ages; Tylenol®, Tempra®) or **Ibuprofen** (6 months and older; Advil®, Motrin®) to treat fevers and pain. **Never give ASA** (Aspirin®) to children younger than 18 years of age because of the serious risk of Reye’s Syndrome.

What does this vaccine contain?

COMIRNATY® contains: mRNA encoding SARS-CoV-2 KP.2 spike protein, ALC-0315 = ((4-hydroxybutyl) azanediyl)bis (hexane-6,1-diyl)bis(2-hexyldecanoate), ALC-0159 = 2-[(polyethylene glycol)-2000]-N,N-ditetradecylacetamide, cholesterol, DSPC = 1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine, sodium chloride, sucrose, tromethamine, tromethamine hydrochloride, water for injection.

Provincial immunization fact sheets are available at www.saskatchewan.ca/immunize.

