

Can children get the COVID-19 vaccine?

- **Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been approved by Health Canada for use on children between 12 and 15 years of age as of May 5, 2021.**¹⁻³ Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was previously approved for people aged 16 years of age and above by Health Canada on December 9, 2021.¹
- Currently, **Moderna, AstraZeneca** and **Janssen** vaccines have been approved for use in adults **18 years** of age or older in Canada^{1,4-7}:
 - Research studies are ongoing to test the effectiveness and safety of use of Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for children between the ages of **6 months** and **16 years** of age.^{8,9}
 - Study results show that the Pfizer vaccine is **100%** effective in protecting children 12-15 years of age against COVID-19 infection and has similar side effects as for people 16-25 years of age.⁸
- Public Health Agency of Canada continues to update recommendations on vaccine use for children based on latest data; please refer to their website for the latest recommendations: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines.html#a7>.
- Please consult with your provincial ministry of health websites for province-specific guidelines.
- For the province of Ontario, you can check the provincial vaccination plan and updates here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/ontarios-covid-19-vaccination-plan>.

References

1. Health Canada. Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine: What you should know. Published December 9, 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/drugs-vaccines-treatments/vaccines/pfizer-biontech.html>
2. Aiello R. Children 12 and older now cleared to receive Pfizer vaccine: Health Canada. CTV News. Published May 5, 2021. Accessed May 27, 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/children-12-and-older-now-cleared-to-receive-pfizer-vaccine-health-canada-1.5414935>
3. Tasker JP. Health Canada authorizes Pfizer vaccine for adolescents. *CBC News*. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/health-canada-authorized-pfizer-12-16-1.6014551>. Published May 5, 2021. Accessed May 27, 2021.
4. Health Canada. Moderna COVID-19 vaccine: What you should know. Published December 23, 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/drugs-vaccines-treatments/vaccines/moderna.html>
5. Health Canada. Drug Details for AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine. Accessed May 26, 2021. <https://covid-vaccine.canada.ca/info/astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-en.html>
6. Health Canada. Drug Details for Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. Accessed May 26, 2021. <https://covid-vaccine.canada.ca/info/janssen-covid-19-vaccine-en.html>
7. Public Health Agency of Canada. Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines. *aem*. Published December 14, 2020. Accessed May 26, 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines.html#b2>
8. Pfizer, BioNTech. Pfizer-BioNTech Announce Positive Topline Results of Pivotal COVID-19 Vaccine Study in Adolescents. Published May 28, 2021. Accessed April 20, 2021. <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20210331005503/en/Pfizer-BioNTech-Announce-Positive-Topline-Results-of-Pivotal-COVID-19-Vaccine-Study-in-Adolescents>
9. Moderna, Inc. Moderna Announces First Participants Dosed in Phase 2/3 Study of COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate in Pediatric Population. Published March 16, 2021. Accessed April 20, 2021. <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20210316005514/en/Moderna-Announces-First-Participants-Dosed-in-Phase-2-3-Study-of-COVID-19-Vaccine-Candidate-in-Pediatric-Population>