COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet
Pfizer BioNTech Comirnaty for children aged 5 to 11

HOW DO mRNA VACCINES PROTECT AGAINST COVID-19?
• The vaccine causes our bodies to create protection (antibodies) that helps prevent the COVID-19 virus from entering our cells and making us sick.

WHO SHOULD GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE?
• The vaccine is safe for anyone who meets the age requirements.
• People who are immunocompromised can also receive a third additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.
• If you are still wondering if the COVID-19 vaccine is right for your child, talk to your child’s health-care provider.
• Vaccination is very important, even if you had COVID-19. Vaccination after infection helps improve the immune response and may provide better and longer-lasting protection against current and future variants of the virus. A longer interval between infection and vaccination may result in a better immune response. Please click on the Vaccination Post Infection FAQs or check with a health care provider to know when to book your next vaccine dose.

YOUR CHILD SHOULD NOT GET THE VACCINE IF:
• They do not meet the age requirement.
• They have an active case of COVID-19.
• They have a severe allergy to an ingredient in the vaccine or had myocarditis or pericarditis after a previous dose of an mRNA vaccine. In these cases, you should consult with your child’s health-care provider before proceeding.
• They have had a condition known as MIS-C, (Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome - in children) that has been linked to COVID-19. Children with a history of MIS-C are recommended to receive their next dose once they have recovered, or once 90 days or more has passed since the onset of MIS-C, whichever period is longer.
• They have recently received specific medications for COVID-19 treatment (monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma).
• COVID-19 vaccines for children 5-11 years old should not routinely be given on the same day as other vaccines. It is recommended to wait at least 14 days BEFORE or AFTER the administration of another vaccine.

TELL VACCINE CLINIC STAFF IF
• Your child is anxious about getting vaccinated.
• Your child has fainted or felt faint after receiving past vaccines.
• Your child has had an anaphylaxis reaction to a previous non-COVID-19 vaccine.

HOW IS THE VACCINE GIVEN?
• Each dose for children five to 11 is one-third of an adult dose.

WHAT SHOULD I DO BEFORE MY CHILD’S APPOINTMENT?
• Reassure your child. Bring a favourite toy, a phone, tablet or another distraction.
• You can help reduce the pain by applying a topical anaesthetic (numbing cream or gel) to the area where the needle will be inserted. Numbing creams are available over the counter at a pharmacy.
• Make sure your child is wearing a short-sleeved top.
• Make sure your child has eaten something before and make sure they are well-hydrated before and after getting vaccinated.
• Bring your masks and your child's Medicare card.
• If returning for the next dose of the vaccine, bring your child's record of immunization. You may obtain a record of your child's COVID-19 immunizations online at MyHealthNB.

WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD DO RIGHT AFTER RECEIVING THE VACCINE?
• You and your child should wait 15-30 minutes after receiving the vaccine in the space provided by the clinic.
• Tell clinic staff if your child feels unwell while you are waiting.
• Report any unusual symptoms that could indicate an allergic reaction, such as fainting, hives, difficulty breathing or swelling of the face, tongue or throat. Clinic staff are prepared to manage these reactions should they occur.

WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD EXPECT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS?
• Your child may experience mild side effects a day or two after receiving the vaccine and they may last for one to three days. The most common side effect is pain where the needle was given. Swelling or redness where the needle was given may also occur. A cool, damp cloth or wrapped ice pack may help. Other common flu-like symptoms, chills, fatigue, joint pain, headache, mild fever and muscle aches.
• If needed, pain or fever medication (such as acetaminophen) may help with pain or fever. Check with your child's health-care provider if you need advice about medication for your child. Aspirin (ASA) should NOT be given to children younger than 18 due to its link to Reye's syndrome.
• Any side effects that last longer than 72 hours after vaccination should be reported to your child's health-care provider.
• Some common side effects are similar to symptoms of COVID-19. If your child has any COVID-19 symptoms that have not resolved after two days, have them stay home and self-isolate and book an appointment to have them tested for COVID-19.

ARE THERE ANY RARE SIDE EFFECTS I SHOULD WATCH FOR?
• Serious side effects are rare and may preclude Call 911 if your child experiences respiratory distress, symptoms of anaphylaxis, hives or swelling of the face, tongue or throat after leaving the clinic.
• Seek medical care immediately if your child develops symptoms that could indicate heart inflammation (myocarditis/pericarditis) such as:
  - Chest pain
  - Shortness of breath
  - Fast or irregular heart beat
• If you have any concerns about the symptoms your child develops after receiving the vaccine, contact your child's health-care provider for advice.
  - If your child needs to receive additional doses of COVID-19 vaccines, tell the person providing the next dose about any side effects your child experienced.

OTHER THINGS TO REMEMBER AFTER YOUR CHILD RECEIVES THEIR VACCINE:
• Make sure you receive an appointment for your child to have their next dose to ensure they are fully vaccinated COVID-19. The recommended interval is eight weeks to receive the second dose.
• Wait 14 days before getting any other non-COVID-19 vaccine including the flu vaccine.
• Keep your child's immunization record in a safe place. You may register online on MyHealthNB to receive a record of your child's immunizations, but the paper record provided at the time of vaccination will remain the official record. Keep a copy and take pictures of it.