

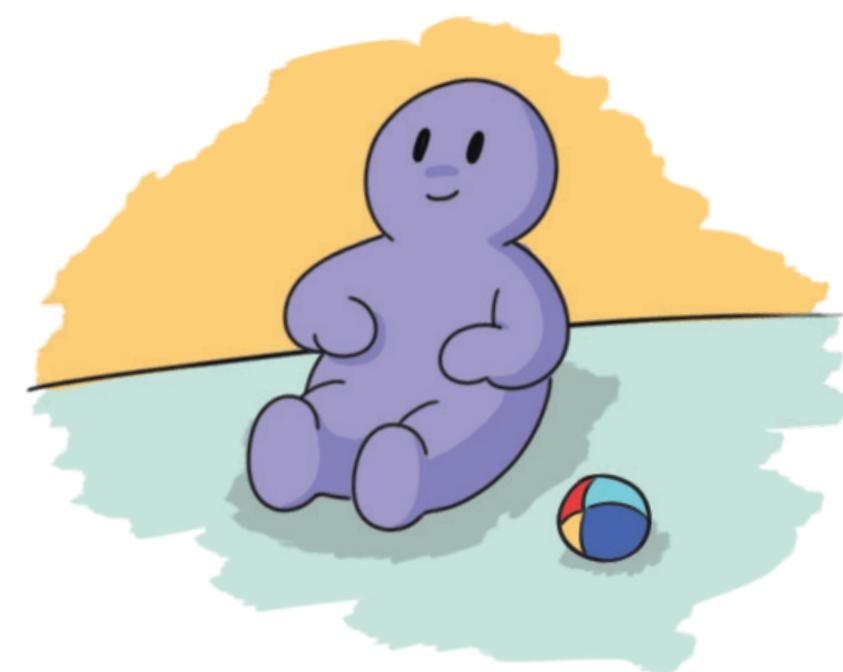
July 14, 2022

COVID-19

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Timing of COVID-19 Vaccines

For young children (aged 6 months and older)



How soon after a COVID-19 infection should young children be vaccinated?

Children can be vaccinated once they are feeling better and their isolation period has ended.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends that most children wait 8 weeks after a COVID-19 infection to get a COVID-19 vaccine. The 8 weeks should be counted from the day symptoms started or the day of the first positive test. Waiting may give children better protection in the long-term.

Children with multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) should wait at least 90 days to be vaccinated. MIS-C is rare, but very serious. It causes inflammation of the heart, lungs, kidney, brain, skin, eyes, liver, and stomach. It is most common in school-aged children.

Can young children get COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines?

If possible, NACI recommends getting COVID-19 vaccines at least 14 days before or 14 days after other vaccines. This is so that the cause of any side effects can be correctly identified.

If spacing out vaccines is difficult or will create delays, young children can get COVID-19 vaccines at the same time as other vaccines.

What is the spacing between doses?

In studies, children aged 6 months to 6 years old got 2 doses of the Moderna vaccine 4 weeks apart. However, NACI recommends waiting 8 weeks between doses. Waiting longer may give stronger long-term protection.

For children with a weakened immune system, a third dose is recommended. For these children, experts recommend 4 to 8 weeks between Moderna vaccine doses.

Should we wait for newer vaccines?

New vaccines are being studied, including vaccines against the Omicron variant. It will be a while before these vaccines are available for children. COVID-19 cases are high and rising in many parts of Canada. Getting vaccinated with the approved vaccines as soon as possible will give children the best protection.

The Moderna (Spikevax™) mRNA vaccine is approved by Health Canada for children 6 months to 6 years old.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends 2 doses of a Moderna vaccine for young children.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-26-covid-19-vaccine.html>



Vaccines work with other measures to protect young children and those around them. Wear a high-quality mask in public, avoid crowded spaces, and wash your hands often to lower the risk of COVID-19.

