

Children aged 12-17 can now get a COVID-19 vaccine in B.C. Here are some answers to common questions about COVID-19 vaccinations in children. More information is available on the [BCCDC website at bccdc.ca/covid19vaccine](https://bccdc.ca/covid19vaccine).

Why should children get vaccinated?

When a child is vaccinated, they can be exposed to COVID-19 without getting sick. If they do get sick, it's usually not very serious. Most children aren't likely to get very sick from COVID-19, but some children will. The vaccines used in B.C. are working well against all current variants. Being vaccinated is the best way to protect children from COVID-19.

Having children vaccinated helps protect the people around them too, including those who might get very sick from COVID-19. If a child is vaccinated, they are much less likely to spread COVID-19.

The more people who are vaccinated in B.C., the harder it is for COVID-19 to spread. This helps protect everyone.

What vaccine will children get?

Children aged 12-17 will be offered an mRNA vaccine, either [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) or [Moderna](#). Health Canada has approved these vaccines for people aged 12 and older. Clinical trials showed these vaccines are safe and effective for this age group.

How do we know this vaccine is safe?

Health Canada has an extensive review and approval process. This ensures the safety and quality of vaccines. They determined the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are safe for people 12 and older. Learn more about [vaccine safety](#).

Is getting a COVID-19 vaccine the right choice?

Having questions about vaccination is normal. [Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines](#) to help decide if vaccination is the right choice for you or your family. You can also call 8-1-1 or talk to a health care provider if you have questions.

Not all COVID-19 vaccine information is reliable. Learn [how to find trusted information about vaccines](#).

Public health recommends all eligible people get a COVID-19 vaccine. This protects you and the people around you, at school and at home. COVID-19 vaccines will continue to be available in B.C. You don't have to decide right now if you're not sure.

Do children have to get vaccinated?

Getting vaccinated isn't mandatory. Nobody has to be vaccinated if they (or their parent/guardian who makes health decisions for them) don't want to be. However, proof of vaccination will be required to attend some non-

essential activities, events, and businesses. Proof of vaccination will not be required for essential activities, including attending K-12 schools.

Do parents/guardians need to provide consent for their child to get vaccinated?

There is no set age in B.C. for when a child can provide consent on their own. To provide consent for getting a COVID-19 vaccine, the child must:

- be able to understand the benefits and risks of vaccination and,
- be able to make decisions about their own health.

The health care provider giving the vaccine then decides if the child can consent on their own.

Generally, children aged 13 and older are given the opportunity to consent to immunizations themselves. Children age 12 and under will usually need a parent/guardian to provide consent. Learn more about [informed consent](#) and [mature minor consent](#).

Where can children get vaccinated?

You can book COVID-19 vaccine appointments for children at the same clinics as adults or attend a [Drop-In clinic](#).

How do children get vaccinated?

There are two steps:

- 1. Register.** Children (or their parent/caregiver) can register one of three ways:
 - Online at gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated, available in 12 different languages
 - By telephone through a provincial call centre (toll-free) at 1-833-838-2323. Available in 140 different languages.
 - In person at the nearest Service BC location.

You will need to provide the child's [personal health number](#). This is on their CareCard or on a BC Services Card/Driver's License. If you don't have the child's personal health number, call the provincial call centre.

You will also need to provide an e-mail or phone number so you can be contacted when it is time to book an appointment.

- 2. Book an appointment.** Once registered, you will receive a text, e-mail or a phone call when it is your turn to book.

Immunization record

Children will be given a paper record of their vaccination and the information will be entered into the Provincial Immunization Registry.

Trusted sources of information about COVID-19 vaccines

- [BCCDC](#): Information on vaccine safety, getting a vaccine and FAQs

COVID-19 Vaccination Information

Children Aged 12-17

- [Immunize BC](#): Reliable immunization information and helpful tools
- [BC Government](#): Detailed information on how to get vaccinated in BC
- [HealthLink BC](#): Information on COVID-19 vaccines, available in 13 languages