

# VACCINATING YOUTH AGED 12-17

Health Canada has approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for youth 12+ as of May 5, 2021 and began the vaccine roll out on May 31, 2021.



## Why Vaccinate Youth?

Children who get infected with COVID-19 could experience severe health consequences and require hospitalization.

Children can transmit the virus to others even if they are asymptomatic (meaning, showing no symptoms).

Children in Ontario have been impacted in other ways that has affected their mental health such as:

- Remote learning
- No extra-curricular activities
- Lack of social activity

Vaccinating everyone who is eligible will help reduce the number of COVID-19 cases in our communities.

## The Vaccine is Safe for Youth 12+

Youth may experience some **temporary** side effects. These are normal signs the body is building protection:

- Pain, redness, and/or swelling at the site of injection
- Tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever and/or nausea

## You Should Still be Vaccinated if You Have Had Covid-19

We do not know how long immunity lasts following an infection, so the vaccines will help to protect against future infections.

COVID-19 vaccines are only provided if informed consent is received from the person, **including those aged 12-17**, if the child is capable to understand and make this decision on their own.

Vaccine Consent Form



Reference document: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/recs/grade/covid-19-pfizer-biontech-etr-12-15-years.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/recs/grade/covid-19-pfizer-biontech-etr-12-15-years.html)

Information is subject to change as new evidence becomes available.