

**May 14, 2021**

Parents/Guardians,

Beginning in June, Saskatchewan Health Authority will begin offering the COVID-19 vaccine to students aged 12 years of age and older at their schools. Providing immunization to students is consistent with new national recommendations and endorsement by Health Canada. The COVID-19 vaccine is voluntary.

The following information package is provided for both parents and students to read and discuss before proceeding with immunization. Your child's school will also provide information detailing the date and location of their specific clinic.

This package includes information about the Pfizer brand of vaccine - children are only eligible to receive this brand; an after-care sheet that outlines common side effects of the vaccine; and a consent form for use as outlined:

- If your child is participating in the school-based immunization program they must be at least 12 years of age at the time of the clinic and a signed consent form must accompany them to their appointment on the date of the clinic.
- Students aged 13 years and older can legally consent to their own immunization as they are considered to be a 'mature minor.' It is recommended parents discuss consent for immunization with their children and efforts will be made to obtain parental consent. Children over the age of 13 who demonstrate the ability to understand the information regarding vaccine can legally consent to receive or refuse immunizations in Saskatchewan by providing mature minor consent to a healthcare provider.
- Eligibility is based on age, and not grade. 11-year-olds are not yet eligible and will not be considered in this opportunity.

Additional information, including common questions as well as a French version of this package is also available at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-youth-vaccine> if you prefer.

If your child would like to access immunization sooner than the school's clinic date, a parent or guardian would like to accompany them to their appointment, or if your child will miss the school clinic for any reason, alternate options to be immunized include:

- Any [participating pharmacy](#) in Saskatchewan that is advertising the Pfizer brand;
- Attending a [drive-thru or walk-in clinic](#) – note that these clinics will operate on reduced schedules in June order to support school-based immunization during the week days; or
- By phoning 1-833-SASKVAX (727-5829) to speak to an agent.

The COVID-19 immunization is a safe, effective way to help everyone stay healthy, prevent illness and save lives. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

### ***Healthy People, Healthy Saskatchewan***

The Saskatchewan Health Authority works in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, acknowledging Saskatchewan as the traditional territory of First Nations and Métis People.

**NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY:** This information is for the recipient(s) listed and is considered confidential by law. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure, copying or communication of the contents is strictly prohibited.

**Please read this information sheet carefully and ensure all your questions have been answered by a health care provider before receiving the vaccine.**

The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine was authorized for use by Health Canada under an [Interim Order](#) on December 9, 2020. An Interim Order allows authorization of the vaccine more rapidly to respond to a public health emergency while following requirements to ensure the health and safety of Canadians.

- **COVID-19** is an infectious disease caused by a new coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). COVID-19 was recognized for the first time in December 2019 and has since spread around the world to cause a pandemic. The virus that causes COVID-19 is mainly passed from an infected person to others when the infected person coughs, sneezes, sings, talks or breathes. It is important to note that infected people can spread the infection even if they have no symptoms.
- [Symptoms of COVID-19](#) can include cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, tiredness and loss of smell or taste. Some people infected with the virus have no symptoms at all, while others have symptoms that range from mild to severe.
- [1 in 13 people diagnosed with COVID-19 in Canada](#) require hospitalization and about 3 out of every 100 people die. Even people with mild symptoms may feel unwell for a long time after a COVID-19 infection.

### How does the Pfizer / BioNTech vaccine protect against COVID-19?

- The vaccine causes our body to produce protection (such as **antibodies**) to help keep us from becoming sick if we are exposed to the COVID-19 virus. The vaccine uses messenger RNA (mRNA) to help our body make protection against the virus.
- In a large study where people were given 2 doses of the vaccine, the vaccine was shown to work very well at preventing people from becoming sick with COVID-19. The immunized group of people was much less likely (95% less likely) to become sick with COVID-19 in the weeks after vaccination compared to the group that did not receive the vaccine.

### Who can receive the COVID-19 vaccine at this time?

- Public health officials will provide information on which groups of people are able to receive the vaccine at this time based on several factors including who is at high risk of COVID-19 infection and severe disease, as well as the amount of vaccine available.

### Who should not have the COVID-19 vaccine?

Check with your healthcare provider or a public health nurse before you get this vaccine if you:

- have an allergy to any of the vaccine ingredients
- had a severe or unusual side effect after this vaccine or one like it
- are younger than 12 years old
- have had another vaccine in the last 2 weeks
- have had a tuberculosis (TB) skin test in the last 2-3 days or need TB blood work done
- have received a monoclonal antibody or convalescent plasma for treatment or prevention of COVID-19
- If you have any symptoms that could be due to COVID-19, you should not go out to get vaccinated because you could spread the infection to others. Talk with your health care provider, or call 811, about your symptoms and getting a COVID-19 test. Your health care provider will advise you when you are able to receive the vaccine.
- If you are a stem cell transplant recipient you **MUST** consult your health care provider prior to receiving.
- If you belong to one of the following groups, it is preferred you contact your health care provider prior to receiving:
  - » have a weak immune system (due to medicine or a health problem).
  - » have received a solid organ transplant.
  - » are receiving treatment with immunosuppressive medications to determine the optimal time to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
  - » All those with an autoimmune disease that affects the neurological system.

Always tell your healthcare provider if you have allergies or if you have had a side effect from a vaccine, medication or other product in the past.

### How is the vaccine administered?

The vaccine is given as a needle in the upper arm muscle and will require two doses given up to 4 months apart.



## What are common reactions to this vaccine?

- In a large study, half of the people who received the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine were monitored for at least two months and no serious side effects have been found to-date. People who have received the vaccine in studies continue to be monitored for any longer term side effects.
- Side effects can develop in the day or two after receiving the vaccine. Although these side effects are not serious to your health, they may make you feel unwell for a day or two; they will go away on their own. These types of side effects are **expected** and can indicate the vaccine is working to produce protection. In the study, side effects included one or more of the following:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| » pain, redness or swelling where the needle was given | » enlarged lymph nodes in the underarm |
| » headache   | » tiredness                            |
| » muscle pain, stiffness                               | » fever, chills                        |
|  | » joint pain                           |

- Rarely allergic reactions can occur after receiving a vaccine. Symptoms of an allergic reaction include hives (bumps on the skin that are often very itchy), swelling of your face, tongue or throat, or difficulty breathing. The clinic staff are prepared to manage an allergic reaction should it occur. Seek immediate medical care if you develop any of these symptoms.
- It is important to note that **you cannot get COVID-19 infection from the vaccine.**
- **If you have any concerns about the symptoms you develop after receiving the vaccine, call 811. If you received your vaccination from a pharmacist, please consult them first when possible.**

For more information please speak with the person providing the vaccine or contact your local public health office, your physician, nurse practitioner, or by calling 811.

## What measures have been put in place to safely provide immunizations during COVID-19?

Health care providers are being very careful to prevent the spread of COVID-19 when offering immunizations. Examples of extra safety measures include the following:

- You will be asked about any COVID-19 symptoms when you arrive at the clinic. People with symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend the clinic.
- You will be asked to wear a mask while at the clinic, as well as to clean your hands, and to stay at least 2 metres (6 feet) from others (except those you live with).

- The staff will also be wearing personal protective equipment and will be cleaning their hands before and after each client.
- Other measures may also be put in place in clinics. Be sure to read and follow any signs or instructions provided.

## What should you do after receiving the vaccine?

- You will be asked to **wait at least 15 minutes after receiving the vaccine** to be sure you are feeling well. Longer waiting times of 30 minutes may be recommended if there is concern about a possible vaccine allergy. You may be asked by the health care provider to wait in the clinic, or if an adult is with you and you have a warm, dry place to wait (such as in your vehicle), you may be asked to wait outside of the clinic. Inform a health care provider right away if you feel unwell while waiting. You should not leave the clinic (or clinic parking lot) for at least 15 to 30 minutes after receiving your vaccine, based on the recommendation of the health care provider.
- **Once you leave the clinic, call 9-1-1 right away if you develop any serious symptoms or symptoms of an allergic reaction** such as hives (bumps on the skin that are often very itchy), swelling of your face, tongue or throat, or difficulty breathing.
- Continue to follow the recommendations of local public health officials to prevent spread of COVID-19, which may include wearing a mask, staying at least 2 metres from others and limiting / avoiding contact with others outside your household.
- If possible, do not receive other vaccines for 28 days after a dose of COVID-19 vaccine or 14 days before your second dose however, in consultation with your health care provider there may be exceptions.
- If possible, avoid pregnancy until one month after your second dose.
- **Keep your immunization record with information about the COVID-19 vaccine in a safe place.**

## When should I return for my second dose?

- If this is your first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, be sure to return for your second dose in up to 4 months. This is very important to ensure the vaccine works well. You may be asked to book an appointment to receive the next dose. Bring your immunization record with you when you come for your next dose.

## What does this vaccine contain?

- Medicinal ingredient: mRNA. Non-medicinal ingredients: ALC-0315 = ((4-hydroxybutyl)azanediyl)bis(hexane-6,1-diyl)bis(2-hexyldecanoate), ALC-0159 = 2-[(polyethylene glycol) [PEG]-2000]-N,N-ditetradecylacetamide, 1,2-Distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine, dibasic sodium phosphate dihydrate, monobasic potassium phosphate, water for injection, sodium chloride, sucrose.

To ensure that a complete immunization record is maintained, immunizations will be documented into the electronic provincial immunization registry, known as Panorama. These immunization records may also be shared with health care professionals in order to provide public health services; assist with diagnosis and treatment; and to control the spread of vaccine preventable diseases. Panorama is a secure electronic system used in Saskatchewan to record and manage immunization records and the health information related to immunization for all Saskatchewan residents.

# Consent for Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Children

Parents/Guardians: Use a pen to complete sections 1, 2 and 3. Print clearly and return form to the school.

## SECTION 1: CHILD'S PERSONAL INFORMATION (PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION)

Child's Last Name	Child's First Name	Male	Female	Birthdate YY/MM/DD
Health Services Number	Address/PO Box, Town, Postal Code		School	
Parent/Guardian Name (print)	Cell Phone ( )	May we text you? Yes No	Preferred Phone Number ( )	Teacher
Your Relationship to this Child (e.g., mother)	Parent/Guardian Email Address			

**DO NOT ATTEND FOR IMMUNIZATION IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY ON ISOLATION DUE TO A RECENT POSTIVE COVID TEST, ARE HAVING COVID SYMPTOMS OR HAVE BEEN NAMED AS A CLOSE CONTACT.**

## SECTION 2: CHILD'S HEALTH CHECKLIST (PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION)

- Does this person have any allergies, including to any of the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine ingredients, medicines, cosmetics, or foods (e.g. PEG)?  No  Yes If yes, describe:
- 2a. Has this person had a COVID-19 vaccine before?  No  Yes If yes, when:
- 2b. Has this person had a side effect from a COVID-19 or other vaccine?  No  Yes Describe:
3. Is this person taking any medicines?  No  Yes If yes, list:
- 4a. Does this person have any health conditions or are they pregnant or breastfeeding?  No  Yes **If yes, see 4b (below) and describe which conditions are applicable:**
- 4b. **For individuals who are immunosuppressed due to disease or treatment; have an autoimmune condition; are pregnant; or are breastfeeding.** The National Advisory Committee on Immunization and the Public Health Agency of Canada recommend that a COVID-19 vaccine series be offered to individuals if a risk assessment deems that the benefits outweigh the potential risks for the individual (and the fetus), and if informed consent includes discussion about the evidence on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in these population. Please read the related information in the Pfizer BioNTech Vaccine Screening Questions available on the Government of Saskatchewan website [covid-19-vaccine-details](#).

## SECTION 3: CONSENT FOR IMMUNIZATION (PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST READ THIS SECTION)

- I have read the information in the Ministry of Health Pfizer BioNTech vaccine information sheet provided.
  - I have had the opportunity to ask questions and they were answered to my satisfaction.
  - I understand the benefits and possible reactions (side effects) for the vaccine.
  - I understand the potential disease risks to my child if they do not get immunized.
  - I understand that in the rare occurrence of anaphylaxis, emergency treatment will be provided to my child.
  - I understand that when a vaccine series requires more than one dose, my consent continues until all required doses of the vaccine have been provided to my child, unless I let the school Public Health Nurse know that I cancel my consent.
- As a parent/guardian of this child, I understand and acknowledge that it is my responsibility to:**
- Seek medical attention should my child have an unusual or severe reaction following immunization. If this occurs, I will seek treatment for my child and notify public health immediately.
  - Inform the school nurse of any changes to my child's health status set out in Section 2 that arise after signing this consent form.
  - It is recommended that parents/guardians discuss consent for immunization with their children. Efforts are first made to get parental/guardian consent for immunizations. However, children 13 years and older who are able to understand the benefits and possible reactions for each vaccine and the risks of not getting immunized, can legally consent to receive or refuse immunizations in Saskatchewan by providing mature minor informed consent to a healthcare provider.**

## A PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST CHECK YES OR NO, AND THEN SIGN AND DATE FOR THE VACCINE LISTED BELOW

I HAVE READ AND BEEN FULLY INFORMED REGARDING THE ABOVE INFORMATION.

I CONSENT FOR MY CHILD TO GET IMMUNIZED WITH THE PFIZER BIONTECH COVID-19 VACCINE.  YES  NO

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ YY/MM/DD \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 4: IMMUNIZER USE ONLY**

Child's Name: M F DOB YY/MM/DD HSN#

Date consent directive entered into Panorama: YY/MM/DD Initials:

Use this section if Point of Service documentation is unavailable.

POS /  
Entered

Date given	Vaccine	Dose #	Lot #	Dosage	Route	Site	Immunizer signature	POS / Entered
YY/MM/DD	Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19	1		0.3 mL	IM	LA RA		
YY/MM/DD	Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19	2		0.3 mL	IM	LA RA		

Verbal consent obtained

Mature minor consent obtained

Notes:

Parent/Guardian name

Child's signature

Phone number

Date & time YY/MM/DD

Date & time YY/MM/DD

Immunizer's signature

### What should I do right after receiving the vaccine?

- Wait for at least 15 minutes after receiving your vaccine. A longer waiting time of 30 minutes may be recommended if there is concern about a possible vaccine allergy. Though uncommon, fainting or allergic reactions can occur after vaccination. Symptoms of an allergic reaction include hives (bumps on the skin that are often very itchy), swelling of your face, tongue or throat, or difficulty breathing. The clinic staff are prepared to manage these events should they occur.
- You may be asked to wait in the clinic or outside the clinic (such as in your vehicle) if an adult is with you. If you are asked to wait outside, inform the health care provider if you do not have a warm, dry place to wait.
- Inform a health care provider at the clinic if you feel unwell while waiting. If waiting in your vehicle, you can honk your horn to get their attention.
- If waiting inside the clinic, be sure to leave your mask on if at all possible and remain at least 2 metres away from anyone not part of your household.
- Use the alcohol-based hand rub to clean your hands before leaving the clinic.
- Do not operate a vehicle or other form of transportation for at least 15 to 30 minutes after being vaccinated (as advised by the health care provider) or if you are feeling unwell.

### What should I expect in the next few days?

- Side effects can develop in the day or two after receiving the vaccine. Although these side effects are not serious to your health, they may make you feel unwell for a day or two; they will go away on their own.
- The most common side effect is pain where the needle was given; swelling where the needle was given may also occur. A cool, damp cloth or wrapped ice pack where the vaccine was given may help.
- Some local reactions may occur 7 days or more after immunization and include a rash, tenderness and extensive swelling where the injection was given. This is a known reaction that resolves on its own within 7-10 days.
- Other symptoms may include tiredness, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, chills or fever. Enlarged lymph nodes (swollen glands) that last for several days may also occur.
- If needed, pain or fever medication (such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen) may help with pain or fever. Check with your health care provider if you need advice about medication.

- Serious side effects after receiving the vaccine are rare. However, should you develop any serious symptoms or symptoms that could be an allergic reaction, call 9-1-1 right away. Symptoms of an allergic reaction include:
  - » Hives (bumps on the skin that are often very itchy)
  - » Swelling of the face, tongue or throat
  - » Difficulty breathing
- If you have any concerns about the symptoms you develop after receiving the vaccine, call 811. If you received your vaccine from a pharmacist, please consult them first when possible.
- If you still need to receive your second dose, tell the person providing the second dose about any side effects you experienced after the first dose.

### When should I return for my second vaccine dose?

- **Return for your second dose of this vaccine in up to 4 months.** It is very important to receive the second dose for the vaccine to work well. Make an appointment or follow the instructions of the health care provider to ensure you receive the second dose at the right time and with Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine (and not another COVID-19 vaccine).
- **Bring your immunization record with you for the second dose** and tell the person providing the second dose about any side effects you experienced after the first dose.

### Things to remember

- Continue to follow the recommendations of local public health officials to prevent spread of COVID-19, which may include wearing a mask, staying at least 2 metres from others and limiting / avoiding contact with others outside your household.
- If possible, do not receive other vaccines for 28 days after a dose of COVID-19 vaccine or 14 days before your second dose however, in consultation with your health care provider there may be exceptions.
- Keep this sheet or other immunization record in a safe place. You can also download the [CANImmunize](#) app to keep track of this and other vaccines. Sign up for [MySaskHealthRecord](#), a secure website that enables Saskatchewan citizens to quickly and easily access their personal health information including immunization history.