

AFTER CARE

Moderna Spikevax™ COVID-19 Vaccine

Pediatric (6 months - 5 years)

Rev. April 24, 2023

What should my child do right after receiving the vaccine?

- **Wait for at least 15 minutes** after receiving the 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 the face, tongue or throat, or difficulty breathing. The clinic staff are prepared to manage these events should they occur.
- You and your child may be asked to wait in the clinic or outside the clinic (such as in a vehicle). 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 your child feels unwell while waiting.
- 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.

What should be expected 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 child's health, they may feel unwell for a day or two.
 - » 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 irritability, crying, loss of appetite, 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 your child 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

- Very rare cases of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart) and/or pericarditis (inflammation of the outer lining of the heart) following immunization with this vaccine have been reported in adolescents and adults. In the Moderna clinical trials for age 6 months to 5 years no cases of myocarditis and/or pericarditis were identified. Go to Emergency or call 911 right away if your child has any of the following symptoms any time after vaccination:
 - » chest pain
 - » shortness of breath
 - » irregular heartbeat, a very fast or pounding heartbeat
- Very rare reports of Bell's palsy (weakness or paralysis on one side of the face that is often temporary) following immunization have been reported in a small number of older individuals. Symptoms usually resolve within a month.
- If you have any concerns about these or other symptoms your child develops after receiving the vaccine, call 811. If they received the vaccine from a pharmacist, please consult them first when possible.
- If your child needs to receive another dose, tell the immunizer about any side effects your child had after a previous dose.

When should my child return for their next dose?

- Evidence shows that an 8-week interval is optimal between doses but the minimum interval of 28 days may be provided if caregiver choose the shorter interval and vaccine supply is available.
- Your child is considered up-to-date on their vaccinations if they have received the last dose they are eligible for.
- Make an appointment or follow the instructions of the health care provider to ensure your child's next dose is given on time.
- Tell the person providing the next dose about any side effects your child had after a previous 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.
- **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.