

# AFTER CARE

## Pfizer BioNTech Comirnaty® Vaccine (6 months – 4 years) Rev. March 28, 2023

### What should my child do after receiving the vaccine?

- Wait for at least 15 minutes after receiving their 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.
- Your child may be asked to wait in the clinic or outside the clinic (such as in a vehicle) if an adult is with them. If they are asked to wait outside, inform the health care provider if they 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 and your child's masks on if at all possible and remain at least 2 metres away from anyone not part of your household.

### What should be expected in the next few days?

- Side effects can develop up to 3 days after receiving the vaccine. Although these side effects are not serious to your child's health, they may make them feel unwell for a day or two; side effects 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 temporary side effects may include fever, diarrhea, vomiting, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, joint pain and chills.
- If needed, medication (such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen) may be given to manage side effects such as pain. Check with your health care provider if you need advice about medication for your child.
- 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 or difficulty breathing
- In Pfizer's pediatric studies, myocarditis (inflammation of the heart) and pericarditis (inflammation of the outer lining of the heart) did not happen following immunization with this vaccine. However, it is important to 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 or
- » irregular or very fast/ pounding heartbeat

- A skin condition called erythema multiforme is an allergic reaction that can occur following immunization with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. Symptoms are round red, raised areas on the skin that can appear all over the body, and on the fingers and toes. These patches often look like "targets" (dark circles with purple-grey centers). The skin condition may reoccur and usually lasts for 2 to 4 weeks each time.
- 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 adults. Symptoms usually resolve within a month. If you have any concerns about this or other symptoms your child develops after receiving the vaccine, call 811. If your child was immunized by a pharmacist, please consult them first when possible.
- If your child still needs to receive another dose, tell the person providing the next dose about any side effects your child experienced after a previous dose.

### When should my child return for their next vaccine dose?

- Return for their second dose of Pfizer BioNTech's 6 month to 4 years vaccine at the optimal time of 8 weeks after the first dose (minimum 21 days). The third dose in the primary series is given 8 weeks after the second dose.
- Immunocompromised children require four doses given 4-8 weeks apart.
- Emerging evidence shows that a stronger immune response and a reduced risk of myocarditis may result when the 8 week interval is used.
- 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 receives their second and third doses at the right time.
- Tell the person providing the next dose about any side effects your child experienced 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 for your child. Sign up for [MySaskHealthRecord](#), a secure website that enables Saskatchewan citizens to quickly and easily access their personal health information including immunization history.