

Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

Screening Questions

1. Are you feeling ill today?

2. Have you had a previous COVID -19 infection?

- Those younger than 80 years of age: Current evidence suggests reinfection is uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection, therefore immunization with COVID-19 vaccine may be delayed until 90 days following the confirmed infection if the infection occurred before the first COVID-19 vaccine dose. However, if this is not feasible, or if an individual presents for immunization less than 90 days after infection, these individuals may be immunized before the 90 days as long as the person has recovered from the acute illness and criteria have been met for them to discontinue isolation.
- Those younger than 80 years of age who develop COVID-19 infection between receiving doses 1 and 2 of their COVID-19 vaccine series, then the 90 day deferral does not apply and the second dose should be provided as long as they have recovered from the acute illness and criteria have been met for them to discontinue isolation.
- Residents of Long Term Care Facilities and Personal Care Homes, and persons aged 80 years and older living in the community should be immunized regardless of whether and when they had COVID-19 infection as long as they have recovered from their acute illness and have no other contraindications.

3. Are you pregnant, could you be pregnant or are you planning on becoming pregnant before receiving both doses of the vaccine?

- The vaccine has not yet been studied well enough in pregnant women. If they are at high risk of exposure to COVID-19 infection and of developing severe disease, they should discuss these risks with their health care provider to make a decision about vaccination.
- The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC) published a statement regarding COVID-19 vaccination and pregnancy which states: Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding should be offered vaccination at any time during pregnancy if they are eligible and no contraindications exist. This decision is based on the women's personal values and an understanding that the risk of infection and/or morbidity from COVID-19 outweighs the theorized and undescribed risk of being vaccinated during pregnancy or while breastfeeding. Women should not be precluded from vaccination based on pregnancy status or breastfeeding.
- Because of scientific uncertainty, it would be prudent to delay pregnancy by 28 days or more after the administration of the complete two-dose vaccine series of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

4. Are you breastfeeding?

- The vaccine has not yet been studied well enough in breastfeeding women. If they are at high risk of exposure to COVID-19 infection and of developing severe disease they should discuss these risks with their health care provider to make a decision about vaccination.
- The SOGC published a statement regarding COVID-19 vaccination and pregnancy which states: Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding should be offered vaccination at any time during pregnancy if they are eligible and no contraindications exist. This decision is based on the women's personal values and an understanding that the risk of infection and/or morbidity from COVID-19 outweighs the theorized and undescribed risk of being vaccinated during pregnancy or while breastfeeding. Women should not be precluded from vaccination based on pregnancy status or breastfeeding.

5. Are you allergic to any components in the vaccine including polyethylene glycol (PEG)?

- Polyethylene glycol (PEG) can be found in some products such as cosmetics, skin care products, laxatives, cough syrups, bowel preparation products for colonoscopy, and some foods and drinks.

- 6. Do you have any problems with your immune system or are you taking any medications/treatment that can affect your immune system (e.g., high dose steroids, chemotherapy)?**
 - The vaccine has not yet been studied well enough in people with immune system problems. If they are at high risk of exposure to COVID-19 infection and of developing severe disease it is preferred they discuss these risks with their health care provider to make a decision about vaccination.
 - Stem cell transplant recipients MUST consult their specialist prior to immunization with COVID-19 vaccine.
 - For persons receiving immunosuppressive medications it is preferred they consult the prescribing health care provider to determine the optimal timing to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- 7. Do you have an autoimmune disease?**
 - The vaccine has not yet been studied well enough in people with autoimmune diseases. If they are at high risk of exposure to COVID-19 infection and of developing severe disease it is preferred they discuss these risks with their health care provider to make a decision about vaccination.
 - Persons with any autoimmune condition that involves the neurological system (except multiple sclerosis) must discuss this with their primary physician or specialist prior to immunization with COVID-19 vaccine.
- 8. Have you received monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma for prevention or treatment of COVID-19 infection?**
 - Vaccination with either first or second dose of COVID-19 vaccine should be delayed for at least 90 days after treatment.
- 9. Have you received another vaccine (not a COVID-19 vaccine) in the past 14 days?**
 - An interval of 14 days from another vaccine is needed before receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Recommend waiting 28 days after a COVID -19 vaccine before receiving other vaccines.
- 10. Have you had a tuberculin (TB) skin test or need TB blood work (IGRA) done?**
 - There is a theoretical risk that mRNA or viral vector vaccines may temporarily affect cell-mediated immunity, resulting in false-negative TST or IGRA test results.
 - If TB skin testing or TB blood work is required, it should be administered and read before immunization or delayed for at least 4 weeks after vaccination with COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Vaccination with COVID-19 vaccines may take place at any time after all steps of tuberculin skin testing have been completed.
- 11. Do you have a bleeding disorder or are you taking any medications that could affect blood clotting?**
 - If yes, apply direct pressure (without rubbing) to the injection site for 5 minutes or longer following immunization.
- 12. Have you ever felt faint or fainted after a past vaccination or medical procedure?**
 - If yes, consider having them lie down for the immunization.
- 13. If this is your second dose, did you have any side effects after the first dose?**
 - If client had a serious or allergic reaction to your last COVID-19 vaccine, they should not be vaccinated until it is determined to be safe by an allergist or other health care provider.