

# AFTER CARE

## Pfizer/BioNTech Comirnaty® COVID-19 Vaccine Bivalent Original & Omicron BA.4/5 Pediatric (5-11 yrs) Rev. July, 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 your face, tongue or throat, or difficulty breathing. The clinic staff are prepared to manage these events should they occur.
- They 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 they feel 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 hands** before leaving the clinic.

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

- Side effects can develop within 3 days 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, fever, and burning, prickling and numbness on the face, body or limbs. 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

- 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. 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
- A skin condition called erythema multiforme is an allergic reaction that can occur following immunization with this vaccine. 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 people in Canada and internationally. Symptoms usually resolve within a month.
- If you have any concerns about these or other symptoms that your child develops after receiving the vaccine, call 811. If they received their vaccine from a pharmacist, please consult them first when possible.

### When should my child return for the next vaccine dose

- **Primary series:** Return for their second dose at the optimal time of 8 weeks after their first dose (minimum 28 days). Eligible high-risk children should receive 3 doses as their primary series with 4-8 weeks between each dose.
- **Booster dose:** After the last dose in a primary series, it is recommended to return for one bivalent booster dose after 6 months. This is important to ensure the vaccine continues to work well.
- Your child is considered up-to-date on their vaccinations if they have received the last dose they are eligible for.
- Ask your healthcare provider or visit <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-vaccine> for booster dose information.

### 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.