

# AFTERCARE Pfizer Comirnaty® XBB.1.5 COVID-19 Vaccine

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

- It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine because there is an extremely rare possibility of a life-threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This may include hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. This reaction can be treated, and occurs in less than one in one million people who get the vaccine.

**If this happens after you leave the clinic, get medical attention or call 911 right away.**

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

- Side effects can develop within three days after receiving the vaccine. Although these side effects are not serious to you/your child's health, they may make you/your child feel unwell for 1-2 days.
- 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 seven 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 or prickling and numbness on the side of the face, body or limbs. Enlarged lymph nodes (swollen glands) that last for several days may also occur.
- 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 you/your child have chest pain, shortness of breath, irregular heartbeat, or a very fast or pounding heartbeat any time after vaccination.
- 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 2-4 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. Symptoms usually resolve within a month.
- If you have any concerns about these or other symptoms you/your child develops after receiving a vaccine, call HealthLine 811. If you/your child received a vaccine from a pharmacist, please consult them first when possible.

## Who needs additional vaccine doses?

- Children six months to four years may require additional doses, depending on their vaccination history.
- Immune compromised individuals may require additional doses.

## Things to remember

If you need more information on this vaccine, ask your healthcare provider or visit [saskatchewan.ca/covid19-vaccine](https://saskatchewan.ca/covid19-vaccine).

- **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.

Use **Acetaminophen** (all ages; Tylenol®, Tempra®) or **Ibuprofen** (6 months & older; Advil®, Motrin®) to treat fevers and pain. **Never give ASA** (Aspirin®) to children younger than 18 years old because of the serious risk of Reye's syndrome.

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