

# **Now That the Covid-19 Vaccine Has Been Approved for Children Ages 5-11, Where Can They Obtain Their First Dose?**

This document was prepared on November 26, 2021 by Nicole Volpe.

Nicole works for North Yorkers for Disabled Persons as an Outreach Communication Facilitator. She can be reached at [nicole.nydp@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.nydp@gmail.com).

This document is not meant to provide or take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, or legal advice.

—

## **The Covid-19 Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been approved for ages 5-11, but what happens now?**

Health Canada officially authorized the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children 5-11 on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This Vaccine is a smaller dose in comparison to the one given to children ages 12 and older. This smaller dose has been proven in studies to provide “very good protection against Covid-19”, however health officials are not sure yet how long this protection will last.

Health Canada has also stated that if a child were to turn 12 years old between their first two vaccinations, that they would be able to receive the larger dose for their second dose.

As per the city of Toronto, “Children 5 to 17 years of age should talk about the benefits and risks of getting the vaccine with a parent or trusted adult. This means the young person must understand information about the vaccine, why it is being recommended and what will happen if they accept or refuse vaccination. Parents or caregivers of younger children will usually have to provide consent on behalf of the child before or at the time of the appointment.”

## **Where can children in this age group get the vaccine?**

The following list of where children ages 5-11 can get vaccinated is from [the city of Toronto's website](#)

### **City-run immunization clinics**

You can book your COVID-19 vaccination appointment at clinics in Toronto using the province's [online registration system](#) or by calling the vaccine booking line at 1-833-943-3900.

### Toronto hospital and health teams' vaccination clinics

- [Centre for Addition and Mental Health \(CAMH\) Vaccine Clinic](#)
  - o Appointments and walk-ins available
- [Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood & Community Health Centre](#) – Mid-West OHT
  - o By Appointment only
- [Humber River Hospital Vaccine Clinic](#)
  - o Drop-ins available
  - o Crossroads Plaza – drop-ins available
  - o Black Creek Community Health Centre – drop-ins available
- [Michael Garron Hospital](#) – East Toronto Health Partners
  - o By appointment only
- [Regent Park Community Health Centre](#) – Downtown East Toronto OHT
  - o By appointment only
  - o Individual must live in the following postal codes: M5A, M5B, M4Y, and M4X
- [Scarborough Health Network](#) – Scarborough OHT
- [Sherbourne Health](#) – Downtown East Toronto OHT
  - o By appointment only
  - o Individual must live in the following postal codes: M5A, M5B, M4Y and M4X
- **University Health Network** (clinic information will be made available soon)

### Participating Pharmacies

There are more than 450 participating pharmacies in the City of Toronto offering Covid-19 vaccination for children. Most pharmacies book appointments ahead of time and some allow walk-ins.

Please call or visit the pharmacy's website to review eligibility criteria and check if you need an appointment or if walk-in (first come, first served) vaccinations are available.

- [Shoppers Drug Mart](#)
- [Rexall](#)

You must bring a valid Ontario health (OHIP) card or other form of valid government-issued identification with you to the appointment.

Find a pharmacy in your neighbourhood using the [Covid-19: Vaccine Clinic Locations map](#).

### School mobile clinics

A mobile school clinic model has been developed in partnership between Team Toronto partners, Toronto Public Health (TPH) and the city's four public school boards. TPH is working to bring Covid-19 vaccinations or access to nearby vaccinations to all public schools in the city.

Parents/guardians and the children will receive notice from their school when a clinic is hosted. Specific school vaccine clinic details will be sent in a letter from principals, for their school only.

### **Family health teams and physicians/paediatricians**

In total, there are more than 130 health teams, physicians and paediatricians providing Covid-19 vaccinations in their clinic. Doctors will contact their patients directly if they are participating and will direct you on how to book your appointment.

### **Specialized accommodations/clinics**

For children ages 5-17, SickKids can help coordinate their Covid-19 vaccination appointment and offer specialized services including drive-through vaccination and the availability of Child Life Specialists and paediatric vaccinators. Visit [sickkids.ca/vaccineconsult](https://sickkids.ca/vaccineconsult) to make a booking to speak with a Registered Nurse. If you need assistance booking an appointment, please call 437-881-3505 or toll free at 1-888-304-6558

### **Homebound vaccinations**

Children between five 5 and 18 years old living with medical, physical, cognitive or psychosocial needs/conditions that prevent them from visiting a local clinic, pharmacy, or their care provider may get the Covid-19 vaccination in their home.

First, contact your child's physician or homecare service to see if they offer home vaccination. If they do not, they will complete the Homebound Covid-19 Vaccination Referral Template form and send it to Toronto Paramedic Services (TPS). TPS will call you and confirm your eligibility and, if confirmed, schedule a date and time for a Community Paramedic to visit and complete the child's in-home vaccination.

If you have questions after speaking with your child's physician, you may contact Toronto Paramedic Services by:

E-mail: [homevaccination@toronto.ca](mailto:homevaccination@toronto.ca)

Phone: 416-397-4322 (select option 2)

Learn more at [How to Get Vaccinated – Homebound Persons](#)

Sources:

1: [Vaccines for children: COVID-19 - Canada.ca](#)

2: [COVID-19: Children & Vaccines – City of Toronto](#)

If you think you may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, take the self-assessment at [www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus). Follow all directions from your medical provider or your local health unit at the following phone numbers:

Telehealth Ontario: 1-866-797-0000

Toronto Public Health: 416-338-7600

Peel Public Health: 905-799-7700

Durham Region Health Department: 905-668-7711

York Region Public Health: 1-877-464-9675