

## **COVID-19 vaccination for children 6 months to 4 years of age in Ontario**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may know, the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, also called Spikevax, was approved by Health Canada for children 6 months to 5 years old. This is the only COVID-19 vaccine available for children 6 months to 4 years old in Canada (the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are both available for children aged 5 to 11).

As your child's doctor, I strongly recommend that your child get a COVID-19 vaccine. I'd like to share some facts with you about the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in young children based on what researchers have found when studying the vaccine:

- **The vaccine provides good protection against getting seriously sick from COVID-19.**
- **Only mild side effects were seen.** The most common side effects were those that often happen with other vaccines: irritability/crying, pain where the vaccine was injected, tiredness, sleepiness, and loss of appetite.
- **The dose for small children is one-quarter of the adult dose.** This dose was safe and provided good protection against serious illness from COVID-19.
- **The vaccine for children is two injections given at least four weeks apart**, and ideally at least eight weeks apart. Based on what was seen in young adults, having a longer time between doses can improve the immune system's response and reduce the risk of side effects.
- **The vaccine was created following all the required safety steps** and was approved by Health Canada.

We are learning more every day about the risks of COVID-19 for children. Although many children who get COVID-19 have no or mild symptoms, some children - even those who are otherwise healthy - can end up in the hospital. Children who get COVID-19 can sometimes stay sick for many weeks or months - this is called Long COVID. I care about your child and I don't want them to get seriously sick from COVID-19.

Vaccines work and they are a safe and important way to keep children healthy. I got the COVID-19 vaccine myself to protect myself against COVID-19.

If you have any questions or concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine or protecting your child against COVID-19, I am here to help and would be happy to discuss this with you. Please call the office to book an appointment.

You can also refer to the following resources for support:

- ["Is the COVID-19 Vaccine Safe for Kids?" fact sheet](#) developed by Ontario pediatricians provides more information on vaccines for children.
- [Kids Health First website](#) developed by experts provides information on COVID-19 vaccines for parents/guardians, youth and children.

- [Phone Consult Service](#) run by SickKids where you can ask a registered nurse your questions about COVID-19 vaccines in a safe, judgement-free space (available in multiple languages).
- [Max The Vax resources](#) developed by Canadian doctors, scientists, and health care providers provides trusted content on COVID-19 and vaccines.

Sincerely,

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Dr. Pooja Prabhu  
Dr. Farah Zavareh  
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Dr. Joshua Hochman