



Sioux Lookout  
First Nations  
Health Authority

# CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

## INFORMATION SHEET

### Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

August 25, 2021

- Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine was approved for use in Canada on December 9, 2020.
- It is 95% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19. It may be less effective in the elderly.
- As of August 18, 2021, anyone born in 2009 can have this vaccine.
- Protection starts 2 weeks after the second dose and increases over time.
- It provides good protection against the Alpha and Delta variants.
- It is given by needle, in two doses, into the muscle of the upper arm.
- The time interval between doses is 21 days up to 4 months.
- You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine. There is no live virus in it.
- Pregnant or breastfeeding women can have this vaccine.
- Common side effects include pain at the injection site, body chills, tiredness, and fever. These side effects are not harmful and go away after a day or two.
- Allergic reactions and severe side effects are very rare. Talk with your community health team if you have a history of allergies or other health conditions.
- A third dose is being offered as extra protection for certain high-risk groups. Are you eligible? Ask your community health nurse.

**Do you have any questions?** Write to us at: [ACWinfo@slfhna.com](mailto:ACWinfo@slfhna.com)

You can find a full version of this document, *Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ*, on our website at: [www.slfhna.com/covid/](http://www.slfhna.com/covid/)

We are learning more each day about COVID-19 vaccines. This is accurate as of August 25, 2021.