



Sioux Lookout
First Nations
Health Authority

Radio Script: What parents need to know about the children's COVID-19 vaccine

Developed: November 2021

Hello/Boozhoo. This is _____.

Today we are going to talk about the children's COVID-19 vaccine.

The Pfizer Comirnaty vaccine has been approved for children between the ages of 5-11. This is the same vaccine that was given to youth during Operation Remote Immunity 2.0.

This vaccine is being offered to children because it is the first to be approved. Pfizer was the first to finish its vaccine trials for this age group. They were the first to apply to Health Canada. Other groups are also running clinical trials. More vaccines may be available to children later on.

The Pfizer Comirnaty children's vaccine went through the same testing and review as the ones before. It is similar to the vaccine that adults and youth got. The difference is that children get a smaller dose with a smaller needle.

Children also need two doses of the vaccine. These doses are given at least 3 weeks apart. It is recommended the doses are given at least 8 weeks apart. This would be to help them maintain a strong immune over time. It's important to note that children develop full immunity about one week after getting their second dose.

Now why should children get vaccinated against COVID-19? Many children who get COVID-19 have mild illness and recover on their own.

But some children can get very sick and need care in hospitals. And some children may experience long-term health effects, like Long COVID. This is where someone has symptoms of COVID-19 for months after they initially recovered. The COVID-19 vaccine can lower the chances of children getting severely ill.



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The vaccine can also help children protect those around them. If a child gets COVID-19, they can spread the virus to others, even if they don't have symptoms. When a child is vaccinated, it is less likely that they will spread the virus to others.

The vaccine works well. A study was completed with volunteers between the ages of 5-11. The study reported that the vaccine was 90.7% effective at least one week after getting the second dose. Children had a very similar immune response to youth and young adults. This suggests that the vaccine can help children develop strong immunity.

Like other vaccines, some children may have mild side effects. This is normal. Side effects show that your body is building immunity against the virus.

Side effects can include:

- Redness, pain and/or swelling where the shot was given
- Headache
- Muscle aches or joint pain
- Mild fever and/or chills
- Nausea
- Feeling tired

Serious side effects are very rare. At this time, the benefits of getting the vaccine outweigh the risks. Experts will continue to watch the vaccine data closely. If you have any concerns, talk to your nurse or doctor.

Vaccine clinics will be coming to the community on _____ at _____.

If you have questions, now is the time to ask. You can talk with a trusted healthcare worker. You can email your questions to acwinfo@slfnha.com. Or you can watch live Facebook Q and A events with Dr. Lloyd Douglas. They happen Wednesdays at 5:00 pm central time. You can ask questions live. Or you can email your questions beforehand to acwinfo@slfnha.com. You can remain anonymous this way.

Please continue to practice all the recommended public health measures. Wash your hands Keep a distance of at least 2 m or 6ft between yourself and people



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that you don't live with. And wear a face mask over your nose and mouth when you out in public spaces. These measures continue to help stop the spread of COVID-19. And help us all live healthier lives. **Miigwetch.**