



Sioux Lookout
First Nations
Health Authority

Radio script: Why children should get vaccinated against COVID-19

Developed: November 2021

Hello/Boozhoo. This is _____.

Health Canada has approved the Pfizer Comirnaty vaccine for children between the ages of 5-11. They can now get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Canadian children will be joining millions of kids in the US who have already received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. No serious safety concerns have been identified. So today, let's talk about why children are getting vaccinated. And why it is a good idea for children in our community to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

The first reason is protection. The children's COVID-19 vaccine can protect them from severe illness. The Pfizer study showed that children developed a strong immune response one week after getting the second dose of the vaccine. It was 90.7% effective at preventing cases of COVID-19.

It's true that many children who get COVID-19 only get mildly ill and recover on their own. But there are also lots of children who get very sick. Others need care in hospitals. And some children who get COVID-19 have symptoms that last for months. This is called Long COVID. The COVID-19 vaccine can lower the risk of severe illness for children. And it can help keep them healthy.

The second reason is to help keep others safe. Children still gather together in groups. They are together in school and in childcare programs. They are also in close contact with teachers and staff. If a child gets COVID-19, they could spread it to others. This could cause outbreaks and may lead to school closures. The COVID-19 vaccine can lower the chances of the virus spreading. It can help keep communities safe and keep spaces like schools open.

It's not just schools. If a child gets sick, they can also spread illness in their household. This means other people living in the home could be at risk. Think of the people in your home. Do you live with Elders, pregnant people, or anyone with chronic health conditions? They all have a greater chance of getting severely



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ill from COVID-19. I don't say this to cause fear. I say this to show that children are powerful. They can help protect household members by getting the vaccine. They can be vaccine champions for the community.

The third reason children should get vaccinated is to help end this pandemic. You may have heard this before. "The more people that get vaccinated, the closer we get to the end of the pandemic." But this statement is true now more than ever.

Children between the ages of 5-11 are one of the last unvaccinated groups. More of our community will be protected once kids are vaccinated. Our community will also be much closer to reaching herd immunity. Meaning that the whole community is protected against COVID-19.

When kids get vaccinated, everyone benefits. So, if you have children in your household, start speaking with them about the COVID-19 vaccine. If there are any questions, contact your community health nurse or doctor. Email SLFNHA's 'Approaches to Community Wellbeing' department at acwinfo@slfnha.com. Or follow SLFNHA on social media.

Children's vaccine clinics are coming to the community. Listen for updates from our public health leadership.

Take some time to think about the vaccine. Make sure to still follow the community's public health measures. The vaccines are helping us fight against COVID-19. But they can't do it alone. So, keep washing your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Or use a minimum 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Keep practicing physical distancing with people outside your household. And wear a face mask over your nose and mouth in communal settings.

Miigwetch for listening.