

# COVID-19 Vaccines for Youth Aged 12 to 17

Youth in the Porcupine Health Unit Area are now able to receive their first and second dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. They may book an appointment online or walk in for any of our Pfizer vaccine clinics. As a parent/guardian, you may have some concerns or questions. Please see below for some common questions that we are hearing:

## Is it safe?

Yes—there have been no serious adverse events related to the vaccine. For children that did report side effects, they were mostly mild to moderate in severity and included fatigue, headaches, chills, muscle pain, fever, and joint pain.

## How effective is the COVID-19 vaccine for youth?

Very effective.

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is 95% effective in protecting those aged 16 and above against COVID-19 and 100% effective for those 12 to 15 years old after receiving 2 doses.

## Why should my kid get the vaccine? Do young people even get COVID-19?

It is strongly recommended that everyone in Ontario over the age of 12 receive a COVID-19 vaccine. As of May 18, 2021 in the Porcupine Health Unit Area, 197 residents under the age of 20 were confirmed as positive COVID-19 cases.

## Is this a requirement to attend school?

No, not at this time. But it can help to avoid absences and may help to prevent school outbreaks and closures.

## If my child gets the vaccine, does that mean they don't need to wear a mask in school?

Everyone still needs to continue to follow the public health measures even though they have received their vaccine.

## Can I attend the appointment with my child?

Yes, you can accompany your child to the vaccine clinic. If you haven't received your first dose, or you're looking for your second dose, we encourage you to book an appointment for yourself too.

## Will my child be at risk of pericarditis or myocarditis (heart inflammation)?

Currently, there is no clear association established between myocarditis and pericarditis with mRNA vaccines; however, symptoms of myocarditis/pericarditis (including shortness of breath, chest pain, or the feeling of a rapid or abnormal heart rhythm) should be assessed by a physician.