

What should I do right after my child receives the COVID-19 vaccine?

- **Wait for at least 15 minutes** in the clinic after your child receives their vaccine. Longer waiting times of 30 minutes may be recommended if there is concern about a possible vaccine allergy.
- Although they are uncommon, allergic reactions may occur.
- Symptoms of an allergic reaction include:
 - Hives/rash or bumps on the skin that are often very itchy;
 - Swelling of the face, tongue, or throat;
 - Difficulty breathing.
- Please do not leave the building if your child is feeling unwell and let one of the staff at the clinic know immediately. The clinic staff are prepared to manage these events should they occur.

What to expect in the next few days?

- Side effects may develop within a few days of receiving the vaccine, but will usually go away on their own. Side effects may include:
 - Pain, swelling or redness where the needle was given.
 - Tiredness, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills or fever may occur.
 - Swollen glands in the child's underarm are another possible side effect.

- If needed, pain or fever reducing medication (such as acetaminophen) may help with pain or fever after vaccination. Make sure to follow the instructions on the label and check with your health care provider if you need advice regarding medications to be given to your child.
- Serious side effects after receiving the vaccine are extremely rare - if you have any concerns about the symptoms your child develops after receiving the vaccine, contact the health centre for advice.
- **Contact the health centre right away if your child develops any of the following symptoms that could indicate heart inflammation (myocarditis/pericarditis):**
 - Shortness of breath;
 - Fast or irregular heartbeat;
 - Chest pain.
- Any serious or unusual side effects after vaccination should be reported to public health.

When should my child return for their second dose of vaccine?

- The best time for children to receive their second dose is at least 8 weeks after their first dose.
- Your health care provider will let you know when to come back for your child's next dose.

Things to remember:

- Please speak to your health care provider if your child needs testing for tuberculosis less than 28 days after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.
- If possible, wait at least two weeks after your child's vaccination or completing their vaccination series before starting drugs that suppress their immune system, as recommended by your child's health care provider.
- Further information about additional doses will be provided by community health centres.
- Continue to follow recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19 including careful handwashing, and limiting / avoiding contact with others if your child is sick.
- **Tell the person providing the vaccine, if your child had experienced any side effects with any previous vaccinations in the past or is allergic to certain medications.**