2026-2027 mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine

What is COVID-19?

- COVID-19 viruses are spread when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks, sings, or breathes.
- An infected person can spread the virus even if they do not feel sick or have symptoms.
- Symptoms may include a cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, tiredness, or loss of smell or taste.

How can I prevent getting or spreading COVID-19?

- Get immunized to protect yourself and others.
- Stay home when you feel sick.
- Clean your hands regularly (use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available).
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

COVID-19 vaccine is especially recommended for:

- Adults who are 65 years of age or older.
- People who live in long-term care homes, personal care homes or other shared living settings.
- People who have health conditions that can increase their risk of severe COVID-19.
- People who are pregnant.
- Health care workers and other people who provide care in health facilities or in the community.

Who can receive mRNA COVID-19 vaccines?

Spikevax® (mRNA vaccine)

- **Ages 6 months to 4 years:**
  - No previous doses: **2 doses** at least 4 weeks apart.
  - Received previous doses: **depends** on prior vaccination and immune status.
- **Ages 5 years and older:**
  - **1 dose** at least 8 weeks after the last COVID-19 vaccine dose.
- Immunocompromised individuals 6 months and older may need additional doses.

Comirnaty® (mRNA vaccine)

- **Ages 12 years and older:**
- **1 dose** at least 8 weeks after your last COVID-19 vaccine dose.
- Immunocompromised individuals may need additional doses.

Who should delay or avoid COVID-19 vaccination?

- People who are seriously ill, with or without a fever, should delay vaccination until they feel better.
- Individuals who recently had COVID-19 may choose to wait until they are feeling better before getting vaccinated.
- People who have had a serious or anaphylactic reaction to a previous COVID-19 vaccine or any of its ingredients should not be vaccinated until they have been assessed by a physician.

Additional Considerations

- Talk to your healthcare provider before getting a COVID-19 vaccine if you:
  - Are receiving therapy or medication that decreases the immune system.
  - Have a condition where the body's immune system affects the brain, spinal cord, or nerves.
  - Had myocarditis (inflammation of the heart) or pericarditis (inflammation of the heart lining) after a previous COVID-19 vaccine.
  - Had multisystem inflammatory syndrome.

What are possible side effects after getting the vaccine?

- **COVID-19 vaccines are very safe. It is much safer to get the vaccine than to get COVID-19.**
- A person cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.
- Some people may have mild side effects for short time:
  - Pain, redness, swelling, or warmth where the vaccine was given.
  - Trouble moving the arm or leg for a short time because it feels sore.
  - Swollen or tender glands (lymph nodes) under the arm. This usually goes away within 7-10 days.
  - Headache, muscle aches, joint pain, fever, chills, rash, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, or loss of appetite.

Rare reactions

- **Myocarditis and pericarditis (heart inflammation):** Seek immediate medical attention or 911 if you or your child develops chest pain, shortness of breath, or a fast, pounding, or irregular heartbeat after vaccination.
- It is important to stay at the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine because there is an extremely rare possibility of a life-threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This may include hives, difficulty breathing or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. This reaction is extremely rare (less than 1 in 1 million people) and can be treated. **If these symptoms happen after you leave the clinic, get medical help right away or call 911.**

Who should you report reactions to?

- If you have concerns about symptoms that you or your child develop after vaccination, call 811. If the vaccine was given by a pharmacist, please consult them first.
- For more information, speak with your healthcare provider, local public health office, or call 811.

Use **Acetaminophen (all ages;** Tylenol®, Tempra®) or **Ibuprofen (6 months and older**; Advil®, Motrin®) to treat fevers and pain. **Never give ASA** (Aspirin®) to children younger than 18 years of age because of the serious risk of Reye's Syndrome.

Mature Minor Consent

- It is recommended that parents/guardians discuss immunization with their children. While efforts are first made to get parental/guardian consent, youth aged 13 years and older who can understand the benefits and possible side effects of vaccines, as well as the risks of not being immunized, may legally consent to or refuse immunizations in Saskatchewan.

What do mRNA vaccines contain?

SPIKEVAX® contains mRNA encoding spike protein derived from the Omicron XFG variant, acetic acid, cholesterol, DSPC (1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3 phosphocholine), SM-102 (Heptadecan-9-yl 8-((2 hydroxyethyl) (6-oxo-6-(undecyloxy) hexyl) amino) octanoate), PEG2000-DMG (1,2-dimyristoyl-rac glycero-3-methoxypolyethylene glycol 2000), sodium acetate trihydrate, sucrose, trometamol, trometamol hydrochloride, water for injection. Does not contain any latex, preservatives, antibiotics, adjuvants, or human- or animal-derived materials.

COMIRNATY® contains: mRNA encoding spike protein derived from the Omicron variant XFG, ALC-0315 = ((4-hydroxybutyl) azanediyl)bis (hexane-6,1-diyl)bis(2-hexyldecanoate), ALC-0159 = 2-[(polyethylene glycol)-2000]-N,N-ditetradecylacetamide, cholesterol, DSPC = 1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine, sucrose, tromethamine, tromethamine hydrochloride, water for injection.

Reference: Canadian Immunization Guide, product monographs. Provincial immunization fact sheets are available at www.saskatchewan.ca/immunize.